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Memorials to Serve for a History of the Parish of St. Mary, Rotherhithe in the ...

Edward Josselyn Beck, Thomas George Bonney

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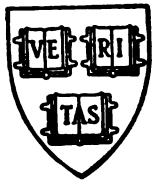

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OF

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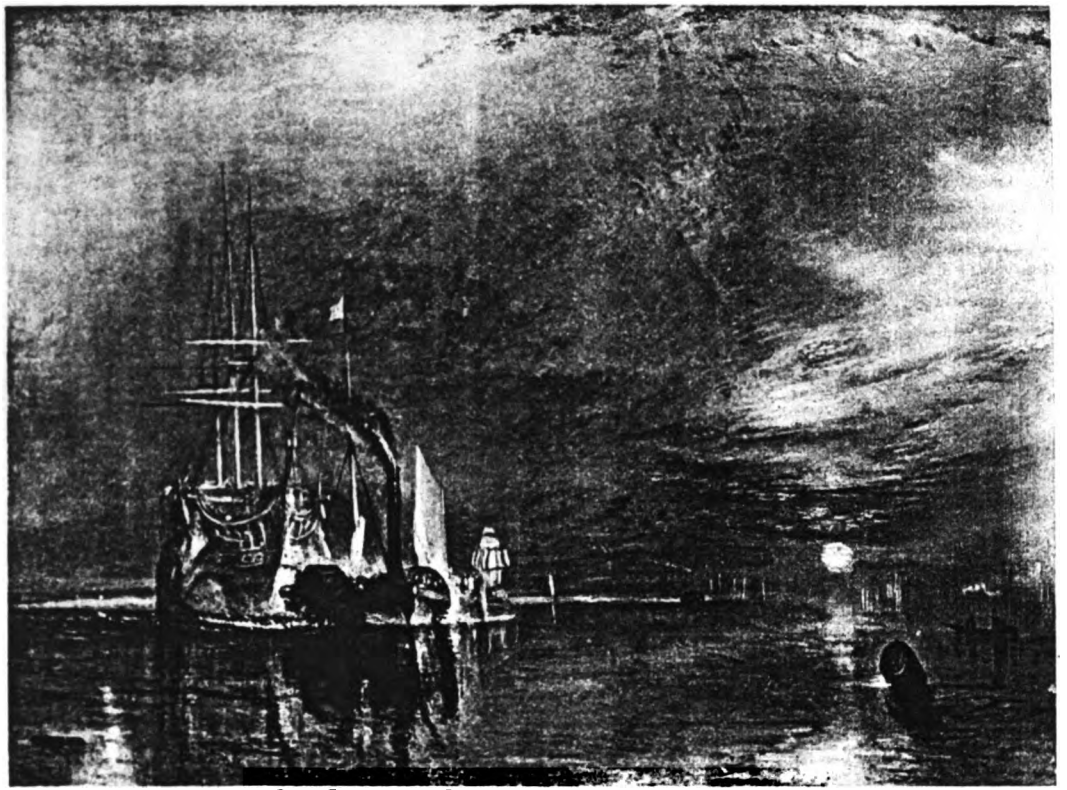

The Fighting Temeraire tugged to her last berth.
From the Painting by J. M. W. Turner in the National Gallery.

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MEMORIALS

TO SERVE FOR

A HISTORY OF THE PARISH

OF

ST MARY, ROTHERHITHE,

IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY AND IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF LONDON

BY

EDWARD JOSSELYN BECK, M.A.

Rector of Rotherhithe and Honorary Canon of Southwark;
late Fellow and Dean of Clare College, Cambridge;

WITH A CHAPTER ON THE GEOLOGY OF THE THAMES VALLEY AND OF ROTHERHITHE

BY

THE REVEREND T. G. BONNEY,

Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.;

Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge; Honorary Canon of Manchester;
and Emeritus Professor of Geology in University College, London

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

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TO

THE RIGHT REV. EDWARD STUART TALBOT, D.D.
LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK;

MRS EMILY BLANCHE CARR-GOMM,
LADY OF THE MANOR OF ROTHERHITHE;

THE MASTER, FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS OF
CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
PATRONS OF THE BENEFICE;

AND

THE CHURCHWARDENS, SIDESMEN AND
PARISHIONERS OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY,
ROTHERHITHE,

THIS HISTORY OF OUR ANCIENT PARISH
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY
THE AUTHOR IN MEMORY OF
HAPPY DAYS SPENT IN
ITS COMPILATION

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PREFACE.

THE Memorials which are herein preserved and which, with some diffidence, I now offer to my readers, are the fruit of some thirty-five years' research, at such leisure moments as I could spare from more serious duties, in collecting materials for a History of the Parish of which I have been Rector since 1867. I had not long been resident in Rotherhithe before I conceived the idea of attempting to write its history, for no one can be at all familiar with this place without seeing that it possesses a history well worth writing, but which no one up to the present time has thought it worth while to write. Indeed, after some ten years' work here, I ventured to announce that this History would before long be given to the world.

I can only congratulate myself and those who may favour me by reading what I am now able to publish that I did not fulfil my purpose in 1877, for I should have given to my readers a very imperfect record of the history of a town which is of no common-place character, although it may be little known to the great world which lies so near to it, and which yet takes so little cognizance of its existence. When I say that modern London has been largely rebuilt with timber from our great Timber Docks, that the great granaries and wharves along our three miles of river frontage contribute no inconsiderable portion of the daily food of its inhabitants, and that in 1871, after the siege of Paris, many ship-loads of provisions were sent in haste across the Channel

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from this place to relieve the famine-stricken Parisians, I may claim that some record should be printed of the history of Rotherhithe.

No such History has ever yet been written, although naturally the great Histories of London devote some space to the Parishes which lie outside the limits of the Cities of London and Westminster. Every Rector of an ancient English Parish owes a debt to his Parish to preserve its memorials from being forgotten, and I hereby endeavour to discharge my debt to Rotherhithe.

I could not have discharged it in any satisfactory degree, had I not availed myself of the help of many friends, which I hereby gratefully acknowledge. Besides drawing on the ordinary sources of information which are open to all in the great Histories of the County of Surrey and of London, I have invoked the kind assistance of many friends whose personal recollections of by-gone days are incorporated in the following pages; and of these I now gratefully mention, first and foremost, my old Cambridge friend, Dr Bonney, whose chapter on the Geology of the Thames Valley is a most valuable contribution to the pre-historic era of our ancient Parish; next the Reverend Prebendary Wm. Hutchinson, Vicar of Blurton, near Stoke-on-Trent, who was from 1836 to 1850 the friend and colleague of the Reverend Edward Blick, when he began his great work of Church-building and School-building in Rotherhithe; Mr F. C. Carr-Gomm, who has kindly placed at my disposal his interesting volumes on the Manor of Rotherhithe, and on the earlier years of the life of Field-Marshal Sir Wm. Maynard Gomm, G.C.B.; the Reverend Dr Atkinson, Master of Clare College, for valuable extracts from the College records; and Mr Hector Munro Chadwick, Fellow of Clare, for revising the Anglo-Saxon derivation of the name Rotherhithe.

My cordial thanks are likewise due to the Library Committee of the Corporation of the City of London for permission to copy valuable prints and maps in the Guildhall Library.

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I have also to acknowledge with sincere thanks the permission given me by the proprietors of the *Illustrated London News* to use blocks of the *Queen* at the ship-breaker's yard—and of two of Whistler's sketches.

I must also mention some copious MS. notes on Rotherhithe, prepared, apparently with a view to publication, by the late Mr Joseph Burn, M.R.C.S.[1], who practised as a surgeon in Rotherhithe for many years, and whose daughter gave them to me at her father's death. They are very accurate transcripts from various sources, and I have made use of them freely.

This book will be found to contain not only some antiquarian and historical lore which may interest archæologists, but much also of a more purely personal character, which will perhaps seem trivial to students of history, but which will none the less be found to be of real interest to old inhabitants of Rotherhithe for whom I have written what they would be sorry not to have had thus recorded. For Rotherhithe folk are very much attached to their old Parish, and if our neighbours in Bermondsey believe that there is "nothing like leather," we of the riverside Parish of Rotherhithe are of opinion that there is "nothing like ships and barges and timber," for by these things we have our living.

Last, but not least, these pages will record a work for GOD's Glory, and for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom, which I venture to believe deserves to find a place in the Annals of Christian courage and devotion.

Nisi Dominus ædificaverit domum:
in vanum laboraverunt qui ædificant eam.
Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem:
frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.

E. J. B.

THE RECTORY,
ROTHERHITHE, S.E.
Jan. 26, 1907.

[1] Mr Burn was a native of the Lake district and a friend of Hartley Coleridge.

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✠

IN PIAM MEMORIAM

MARIÆ COLERIDGE BECK

IN HOC OPUSCULO CONFICIENDO

ADJUTRICIS ASSIDUÆ ATQUE

INDEFATIGABILIS

ANTEQUAM REQUIEVIT IN PACE

5^to^ DIE SEPTEMBRIS

A.S. 1906

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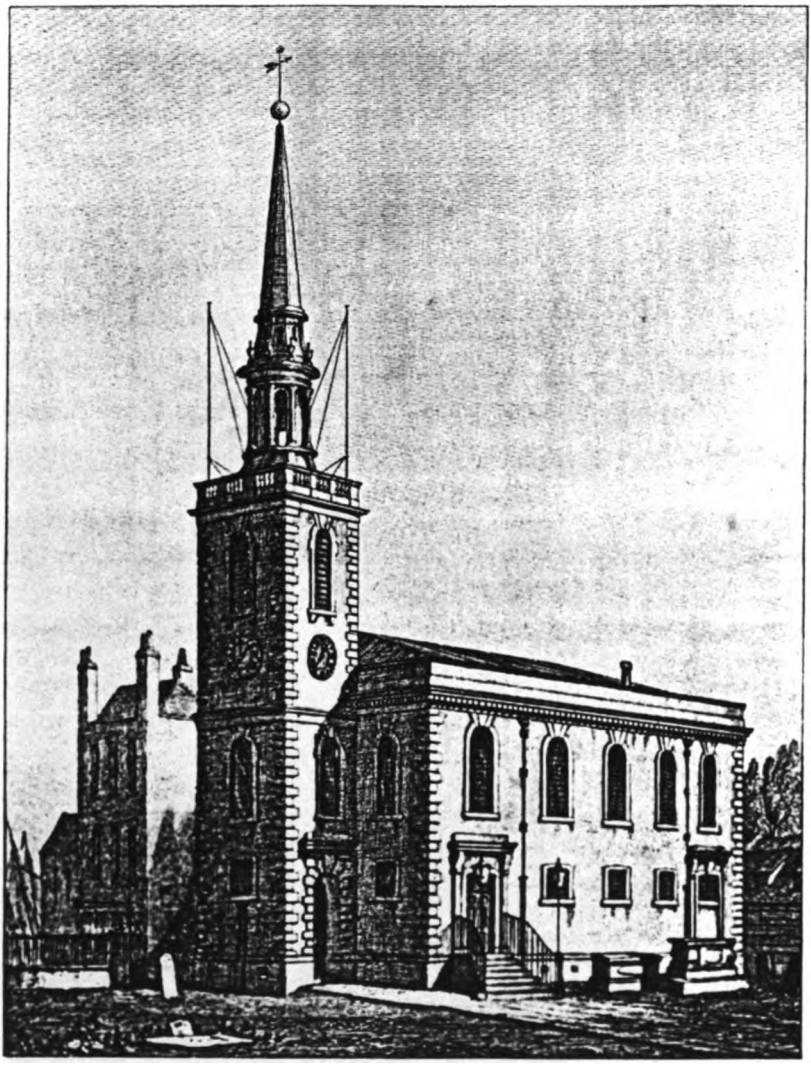

Parish Church of St Mary, Rotherhithe, as re-erected in 1715. The new Tower erected 1738. Shipping in the river is seen on the left-hand.

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Where'er I roam in this fair English land,
  The vision of a Temple meets my eyes:
  Modest without; within, all-glorious rise
Its love-encluster'd columns, and expand
Their slender arms. Like olive-plants they stand,
  Each answ'ring each, in home's soft sympathies,
  Sisters and brothers. At the altar sighs
Parental fondness, and with anxious hand
Tenders its offering of young vows and prayers.
The same, and not the same, go where I will,
The vision beams! ten thousand shrines, all one
Dear fertile soil! What foreign culture bears
Such fruit? And I through distant climes may run
My weary round, yet miss thy likeness still.

J. H. NEWMAN.
Written at Oxford, November 16, 1832
(published 1867).

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ADDENDUM TO *p.* 193.

The Right Reverend George Henry Stanton, D.D., who was Curate of Christ Church, Rotherhithe, from 1858 to 1862, was consecrated Bishop of North Queensland on 24 June 1878 and eventually became Bishop of Newcastle in New South Wales. He was devoted to missionary work and rarely came home to England. He died at his post after 28 years of unremitting labour.

CORRIGENDUM.

p. 252, l. 28, *for* river have *read* river has

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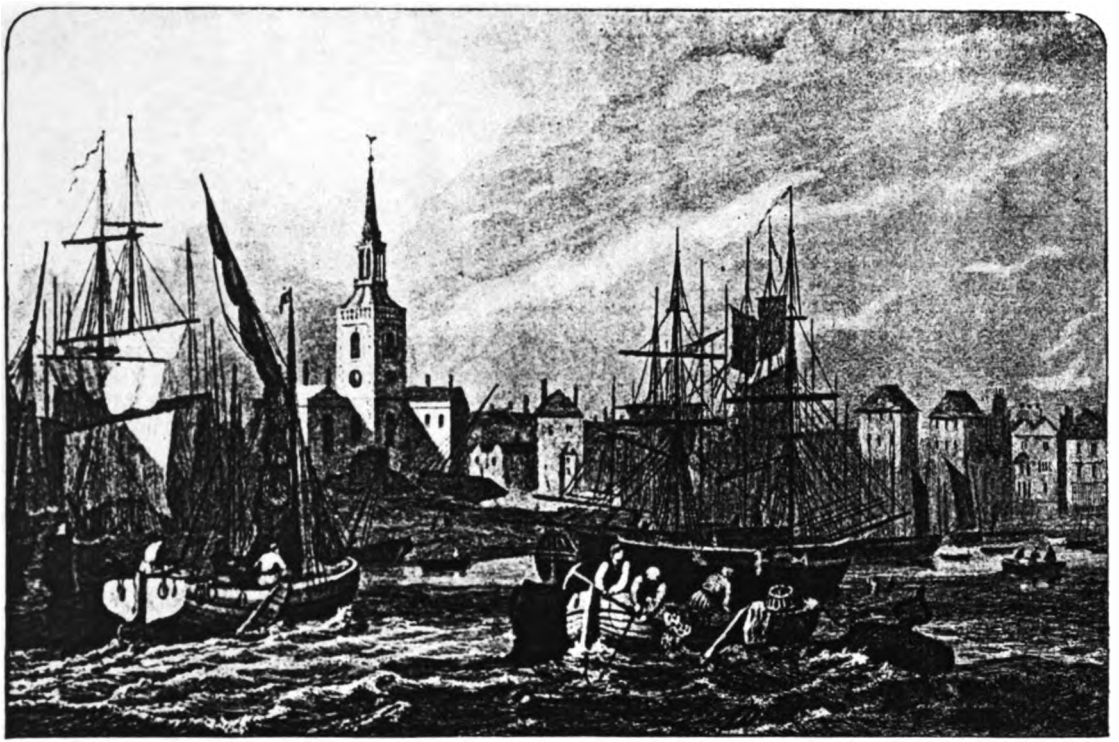

Scene on the Pool of the Port of London, shewing the Tower of St Mary's Church, Rotherhithe, and Wharves and Granaries on the Southern Bank of the River.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE parish of Rotherhithe lies somewhat apart from the main stream of the life of the metropolis by reason of its area occupying the space enfolded by one of the numerous bends of the river Thames, so that the main thoroughfares and great railway lines pass along the southern fringe of its boundaries and leave the parish itself almost untouched.

Nevertheless it is and always has been a place of some importance, in consequence of its being situated on the Pool of the Port of London; and the long sweep of river-frontage with its line of wharves, granaries and dry docks, together with the vast area of the Grand Surrey Commercial Docks, the centre of the timber trade of London, constitute its commercial wealth and importance in the mercantile world, and determine the character and govern the employment of its waterside inhabitants.

Its ancient name is variously spelt in the books and records of olden time. We find it called Retherhith, Rotherhith or more commonly Redriff, the name which it bears to this day in the parlance of its waterside inhabitants, as may be seen painted on the stern of the lighter-barges and watermen's boats (e.g. "the Mary Jane of Redriff").

And the etymology of the name takes us back to the Saxon period of our English history; for it is formed of two Saxon words, *Rethra* (*rēðra*) = a rower or mariner, and *Hythe* (*hȳð*) = a landing-place or haven. Thus the name *Redhra-hythe* well describes the place, which has always been a landing-place for watermen and mariners. The more

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modern spelling of the name Rotherhithe has misled some writers into imagining a river "Rother," which we need hardly say does not exist in this county, although Rotherfield in Sussex does take its name from the river Rother, which runs out into the sea near Rye in that county[1].

The situation of Rotherhithe is on the southern bank of the river Thames, extending from the eastern boundary of the parish of Bermondsey at West Lane and following the bend of the river to the western boundary of the parish of Deptford in Kent, so that it is bounded on the north and east by the river, while on the south it is bounded by the parish of Camberwell and on the west by Bermondsey.

Rotherhithe is in the Hundred of Brixton, or Brixstane. There is also a small portion of Rotherhithe which lies in the county of Kent.

"The Maner" or Manor of Rotherhithe appears to have been from very early times included in the "Maner of Bermondsey," for no notice is taken of Rotherhithe in the Record of Domesday, and we must conclude that it was certainly not a distinct manor at the time of the general survey in the reign of William the Conqueror.

The general aspect of Rotherhithe in the earliest ages is treated in the next chapter by the able geologist who has so kindly acceded to the request made to him to describe the physical geography of this place and neighbourhood in prehistoric times.

It could scarcely have been inhabited by man until the great embankment or river-wall had shut out the tidal waters from overflowing its area, and these walls must have been the work of the Roman conquerors of Britain; for the ancient Britons were too poor to undertake such a work, and the Saxons were too little acquainted with engineering problems.

The whole area of Rotherhithe comprises an acreage of about 886 acres, and of this no less than 365 acres lie within the Dock Fence of the Surrey Commercial Dock Company;

[1] Others have suggested *hriðera hyð* = place where oxen are landed, from hriðer = an ox.

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60 acres are within the Park Fence of the Southwark Park, leaving little more than half the entire acreage for the public roads and streets, and for the habitations of the parishioners, who are indeed in one part of the parish shut in between the river and the docks in a most inconveniently straitened fashion.

Our parish history will naturally be divided into historical periods, comprising the Roman era; the Saxon and Danish period; the Norman and Plantagenet period; the Monastic period, during which Rotherhithe was dominated by the monks of the great Abbey of St Saviour in Bermondsey, who were lords of half its manor and ecclesiastical patrons of the benefice, sending their own monks to be the rectors of our parish church.

We shall next come to the Puritan period and the incumbency of the great Puritan rector, the learned and pious Thomas Gataker.

The Restoration period will tell us of some famous Royalists who lived here.

The era of the great sea-captains will tell of many famous sons of Redriff who fought for king and country.

The peaceful developments which followed the Revolution of 1688 enabled our forefathers to rebuild the parish church which they loved and cared for with such dutiful pride.

The great continental war will bring us to the Loyal Rotherhithe Volunteers and to our famous Lord of the Manor Field Marshal Sir William Maynard Gomm, G.C.B., Constable of the Tower, a Waterloo veteran, and ever a true friend of Rotherhithe.

The modern period will bring us to Brunel and the making of the Thames Tunnel; to the church and school-building age of the last rector, the Reverend Edward Blick, and so down to the present day, when we are "making history" and still building churches and schools for the 40,000 inhabitants of our population in this twentieth century of the Christian era.

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CHAPTER II.

THE GEOLOGY OF ROTHERHITHE AND OF THE THAMES VALLEY.

By Canon T. G. BONNEY, Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

THE valley of the Thames in the neighbourhood of London is bounded on either side by chalk hills, which towards the south rise to more than six hundred feet above the level of the sea. That rock is composed of calcareous marine organisms, plant and animal, often very minute, and much resembles the material now accumulating in some of the deeper parts of the Atlantic Ocean, so that when it was deposited only the highest parts of our islands, if even these, can have risen above the water. The total thickness of the chalk in some parts of the country exceeds eleven hundred feet, so ages must have passed while it was being formed. At last, however, the downward motion of the earth's crust was replaced by an upward, and the higher part of this soft calcareous ooze was brought within reach of the waves. Some of it was removed, so that the present thickness of the chalk beneath the London area is less than seven hundred feet.

The material next in succession, and that after a long interval, for it belongs to the Eocene or first system of the Tertiary Series, consists of sands and clays deposited near the mouth of one or more large rivers, which probably were already in existence before the great submergence began, during which the chalk and beds immediately beneath it were deposited. The oldest Eocene deposit in this country is a

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sand, generally grey in colour and clean, named from the Isle of Thanet, which can be seen in the cliffs of Pegwell Bay, to the east of Herne Bay, in pits at Erith and Charlton, and at other places. This marine deposit is nowhere thick, and becomes thinner towards the west, seldom exceeding forty feet beneath the London area. It is followed by bedded clays and sands, variable in character, which must have been deposited in the estuary of a large river, and seldom exceed 70 feet in thickness. These are followed by the compact London Clay, which in some places attains a thickness of nearly 500 feet. At its base a bed of well-rolled flint pebbles commonly occurs, which in some places, as at Blackheath, Chislehurst and the east of Herne Bay, is rather more than 30 feet thick; while in others, as under London, it has almost disappeared[1]. The London Clay has also been deposited in the sea though the material is itself a river mud, and above it come the clean Bagshot Sands, also marine, remnants of which cap the hills at Hampstead, Highgate and Harrow.

The following facts give the first hint of a Thames valley. Beneath London, the united thickness of the deposits separating the pebble bed at the base of the London Clay from the top of the chalk is about 100 feet. To the south of the metropolis, for example near Caterham waterworks, that pebble bed rests on the chalk, so this part of the North Downs must even then have been higher by that amount than the sea bed on which the Thanet Sand was first deposited.

For long ages after the deposit of the Bagshot Sands the history of the Thames valley is a blank. Whole chapters corresponding with the Oligocene[2], Miocene and practically all the Pliocene periods have disappeared from the record. During this, the broader physical features of the district must have been shaped and the valley have been excavated, though to what extent we cannot yet determine. The deposits next in order of time are certain gravels on the higher ground

[1] It has been named the Oldhaven or Blackheath Beds.

[2] The Oligocene is a modern name for the lower half of the Miocene and the top third part of the Eocene of the older writers.

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to the north, which are followed, apparently in immediate sequence, by a tough clay containing pebbles and fragments of various rocks, among which chalk and flint are common—the so-called boulder clay. This is spread like a mantle over no small part of England north of the Thames. It may be seen about Finchley and Muswell Hill, but is restricted to the higher ground, and may perhaps be intimately related to certain gravelly clays which occur on the upper parts of the North Downs. But the history and relation of these deposits are subjects so difficult and full of controversies that, in the present state of knowledge, we must be content to mention them, and pass on to take our stand on firmer ground. We can then picture the Thames flowing along a valley almost identical with the present one, except that its bed is at a higher level. At the outset the difference may have amounted to a hundred feet. But England itself then rose higher above the sea, and the coast of that epoch may have corresponded with the present hundred fathom line, so that our country, instead of being insulated, formed part of the continent. The climate was then much colder, more like that of Labrador or possibly even the extreme south of Greenland; there was more rain and a much greater accumulation of snow in winter. Thus the rivers ran, especially in the summer, with larger and stronger streams, sweeping along coarse gravel which was deposited in the slacker waters, while the main channels were deepened. These altered their courses as the waters rose or fell, and gradually lowered the river bed to about its present level. This stage in the making of the Thames valley is commemorated by the bed of coarse gravel, which may often be traced in a series of rude terraces, and sometimes almost in a continuous sheet, from a height of about a hundred feet above high-water mark to slightly below the bottom of the present river. Resting upon the London Clay, these deposits determined the site of ancient London, which was built on the first large shelf of gravel, overlooking the river at the head of the great tract of marshland rendered uninhabitable by its tidal waters. Gravel also was deposited both on the southern side and higher up the stream, but this we need not

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further describe. Forests probably clothed the slopes on both sides, as they did no small part of England. Many wild animals, which have now disappeared from Europe, and in some cases from the earth, then inhabited the country: man also had already arrived; but to this subject we shall return.

Slight changes occurred in the level of the land which are not so clearly indicated in this district as in some other parts of England, and ushered in the last epoch. The valley of the Thames had now been worked down to about its present depth and contours, but its waters during floods and high tides spread freely over its bed, and all the level plain below the site of London Bridge was a marsh generally uninhabitable, and only visited on occasion by the hunter and the fowler. But civilization advanced: some native tribe found a dwelling-place on the gravel terrace on the left bank of the river, and then the Roman came, to begin the reclamation of the marshes and the history of the metropolis.

That gravel terrace, as we have already said, determined the position of the future London. It was sufficiently high above the river to be safe from floods; it was traversed by streams, which in one or two places provided springs by cutting down to the underlying clay, and made men independent of the brackish river water, with an ample supply beneath their feet when they had learnt to sink wells[1]. But even while that gravel was being formed, men frequented the valley of the Thames. They were a race of hunters, clad, no doubt, like the Greenlanders, for the climate was cold, in the skins of wild beasts; they made their cutting instruments of flint rudely chipped into shape, and added to these, at any rate after a time, lances, harpoons, and smaller implements of antlers or strong bones. These people must have been long in the land, for it would take not a few centuries to deepen the Thames valley by a hundred feet. During that time they seem to have advanced in civilization, though this

[1] The writer remembers the pumps by St Giles in the Fields Churchyard, in Great Dean's Yard, Westminster, and in the Charterhouse; the last still remained a few years ago.

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is shown, not so much by discoveries in river gravels, where only the stronger materials would remain, as by the examination of rock shelters, especially those in the valleys of the Vezère, Dordogne and elsewhere in France. These caves, some of which were evidently inhabited for a considerable period, furnish better made implements and carvings on antler and bone, not without a certain skill, such as figures of animals and representations of hunting scenes, and in a few cases rude drawings on the rock. But work of the more finished type has not been found in the gravels of the Thames, or indeed of our other river valleys.

Skulls or other bones of these Palæolithic, or Old-stone men, as they are called, are rareties and do not suggest beings much higher in their intellectual capacity, at any rate in the earlier time, than the Australian or lower types of African natives[1]. But the bones and teeth of animals are much more abundant in both the gravels and the caves. The valley of the Thames and its tributaries was frequented, to mention only those which have disappeared, by the brown and the grizzly bears, the spotted hyæna, the lion and the wolf, by the bison and the aurochs, the giant stag, commonly called the Irish Elk, and the reindeer, by a wild horse, by two species of elephants of which the Mammoth was the commoner, by three of rhinoceros, the woolly species, *R. antiquitatis*, being the most abundant, and by a hippopotamus, hardly distinguishable from that still living on the Upper Nile[2].

We leave for a moment the relation of these gravels to Rotherhithe and pass on to the alluvial deposits, only

[1] At Galley Hill, near Northfleet, a considerable part of a skeleton, including a skull, was found in gravel about 90 feet above the Thames in 1888 which was described afterwards by Mr E. T. Newton (*Quart. Jour. Geol. Soc.* LI. (1895), p. 505), and considered by him to represent palæolithic man. Some authorities, however, think that though the age of the gravel is indubitable the human remains may be more recent.

[2] The complete list of the fauna from the river drifts of the London district will be found in the *Geology of London* (W. Whitaker), vol. I. pp. 335–8 and several outline drawings of the flint implements are given immediately afterwards. The animals must have wandered about Rotherhithe, for the molar tooth of a mammoth and a red deer's antler were found in 1873 in building the dock wall of Canada Dock.

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remarking that the remains of both extinct animals and man have been found beneath London itself. Remnants of a mammoth were dug up in Pall Mall, two, probably a mother and calf, were discovered and partly destroyed just south of Endsleigh Gardens, and an "elephant's" tooth, with a well-made flint implement, was taken up twelve feet deep "as they were digging for gravel by the end of Grays Inn Lane" so long ago as about 1690, being the earliest palæolith on record. Of late years they have been found rather commonly near Stoke Newington, as well as the actual places, so it is believed, where the men of that age sat to chip them from the rough flint of the gravel-banks[1].

The latest prehistoric deposits, which, but for the restriction of the river channel, would still be forming on the wide flats bordering the Thames from Rotherhithe downwards, differ considerably, as we shall see, from the river gravels, and are probably separated from them by an unrecorded interval of some duration. They consist of rather tough grey clays parted by somewhat irregular peaty layers[2], which represent the mud spread by the river when its waters extended without check during floods and high tides over its almost level bed, or marshy places traversed by creeks, dotted with stagnant pools and brackish lagoons. Here, as accumulation continued, shoals would become banks a little drier than the rest of the plain, and trees would take root on

[1] Further particulars and references will be found in the above named work, pages 343 to 357, and in Sir J. Evans' *Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain* (see especially pages 582 and 597, ed. 1897).

[2] Mr Whitaker (*Geology of London*, vol. I. p. 459) mentions the following sections. Between Adam Street and Albion Street (near the entrance to the Old Thames Tunnel) Silt about 3 feet between Made Ground and Gravelly Sand (over 6 feet exposed). Further south, at the entrance to the tunnel (site of a station), the following section of the alluvium lay beneath the soil: Brown Clay 3 feet, Peat with wood 4 or 5 feet, Green Clay; and then a few yards further south he saw between the soil and the gravel: (alluvium) Peat 3 feet; Grey Clay with rootlets, greenish in parts, 2 feet or more; Sand with fresh-water shells (*Bithynia*), about a foot; Peat with loam at the bottom, over a foot. Other sections are given proving the presence of at least one peaty layer, and in cutting the Surrey Commercial Docks a forest bed, with tree stumps *in situ*, was exposed about 20 feet down, with a band of silty clay below, rich in mammalian remains, and below it the gravels.

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them, while it would be covered by a marshland vegetation—the home of wild animals and birds, but not often of men. Neither the one nor the other were the same as in the former days. The larger quadrupeds, the survivors of earlier times, had now disappeared, though the early British hunter had a wider choice of game than is possible at the present day. The woods and marshlands of the Thames estuary were then frequented by both the Irish and the true elk, by the rein, the red, and the fallow deer, by the roe, the horse, and the boar, by the beaver, wolf, and bear, by the bison, aurochs, and the Celtic shorthorn (*Bos longifrons*). The last, with the goat, sheep and dog, may represent domesticated animals. The Irish elk and the aurochs do not now exist, though the latter lingered in the German forests till the earlier Middle Ages, but the wild horse still lives in the deserts of Central Asia, though this may be a different species from that which once inhabited our islands, and could be found west of the Urals in the later part of the eighteenth century.

Proof that some of these animals actually wandered over the site of Rotherhithe was obtained, in 1875, by the discovery of a number of bones in the alluvial deposit during excavations for the Canada Dock in the area of the Surrey Commercial Dock. These were fortunately secured by the author of this volume, and are now preserved in the Public Free Library, Bermondsey. They have been examined by Mr E. T. Newton, F.R.S., at that time Palæontologist to the Geological Survey, who has kindly sent the following list of the bones, dated Feb. 13, 1905.

(1) Horse (*Equus caballus*). A number of bones of horses of different size and belonging to at least four animals; including skulls, pelvic bones, scapulæ and limb-bones.

(2) Ox (*Bos taurus*). Several fragments of ox-bones, indicating a larger and a smaller form.

(3) Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*). Two limb-bones of a red deer, both broken, but indicating a large animal.

(4) Sheep (*Ovis aries*). A skull with outwardly directed

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horn cores, and a number of bones from other parts of the skeleton.

(5) Dog (*Canis familiaris*). Portion of two skulls of dogs of dissimilar size.

(6) Pig (*Sus scrofa*). The pig is only represented by a single humerus of a young animal.

Also fragments of wood.

The men of this age belonged to more than one race, but even the earliest among them were much more civilized than their predecessors. They had not then discovered the use of metals, but often put a smooth surface on their stone instruments, instead of leaving them rough-chipped, from which they are called the Neolithic or New-stone people. They were agriculturists as well as hunters, cultivated cereals, domesticated animals, made pottery, could spin, weave and shape canoes. The first comers were rather short, the men not exceeding five feet six inches in height, and their skulls are of the longer oval type. They were dark in hair, eyes and complexion, being represented at the present day by the Basques and other remnants of a similar race recognizable in Europe, as for instance in Brittany, Wales, the Western Highlands, and south-west Ireland[1]. This race, often called the Iberic, was followed by the Celtic, whose representatives may not have reached these islands till they had discovered how to make bronze, to which afterwards iron was added. These were tall, fair and blue-eyed[2], with rounder skulls, and they occupied when the Romans came (ethnologists recognize more than one immigration) all but the more rugged parts of England.

Relics of both the Later Stone and the Bronze age have been found in the valley of the Thames or on the surrounding slopes[3]. Hut circles or shallow pits, marking the site of

[1] See Boyd Dawkins, *Early Man in Britain*, ch. IX.

[2] Identical with those described by Tacitus (*Germania*, c. IV.), *truces et caerulei oculi, rutila coma, magna corpora.*

[3] For the Neolithic age see Sir John Evans, *Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain*. References in Index *s. v.* Thames down to page 472 (2nd edition, 1897).

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wigwams, and camps fortified by earthworks belonging to the former are far from rare; they buried their dead, commonly in a crouching posture, in cists (boxes made of stone slabs) or in dolmens (chambers formed with larger blocks) beneath circular mounds of stone or earth; the Bronze age men, who followed the same mode of life, generally burnt their dead and buried the ashes in vases beneath a "long barrow" or mound of oval shape. The use of iron was introduced in still later times, but before the coming of the Romans. Remains of this Prehistoric Iron or Neo-Celtic age, as it is sometimes called, have been found in the Thames valley, as in other parts of England; near Glastonbury, for instance, a village of some size has been recently explored. This age probably was not a long one in Britain, for the use of iron seems to have spread northwards through Europe from the south-east. In Greece the metal was known, though still far from common, about twelve centuries B.C., but it had become familiar in the days of Hesiod, who lived in the middle of the ninth. The metal work of this age, gold, silver and iron, exhibits a higher finish than that of its predecessor, and is ornamented with spirals, volutes and other rather elaborate patterns; sometimes also with enamel; the burial places show that while cremation was still practised, interment at full length was more usual. This branch of the Celtic race occupied the south-east, if not the major part of the British lowlands, and was the first attacked by the Roman invaders.

With their coming written history begins in these islands, and the first efforts were made to restrict the Thames from wandering at will over the alluvial plain which borders its lower reaches. Here the geologist leaves the field to the antiquarian, because since that date the changes made by unaided nature have been so small as to be almost negligible. But we may conclude by a brief sketch of the Thames valley, more especially in the immediate neighbourhood of Rotherhithe, as we may infer it to have been from well sinkings and other investigations. During the Palæolithic age, as we pointed out, the whole region must have been at a higher

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level than it is at the present day. The Thames, while depositing the gravels already mentioned, continued to deepen its main channel, so that at the end of this age its bed in the neighbourhood of the Charing Cross railway bridge was about fifty feet lower than that of the present river[1]. Since these gravels were deposited there must have been a subsidence of more than that amount, which appears to have been carried so far that early in the Neolithic age England was actually depressed to a little below its present level. This is shown by the presence of clays containing marine fossils and formed on the whole below the low tide limit, and by the raised beaches well developed on our northern and western coasts; on the eastern, as in the Thames valley, the changes have been less, so that the present level has not been materially altered, except by deposition from tidal or flooded waters since Neolithic times. As in the Cambridgeshire fens, though on a much smaller scale, the gravel here and there formed shoals or very low islands in the swampy river plain. Bermondsey, as its name implies, was one of them, the gravel beneath it, which rests on the London Clay or the underlying Woolwich Beds, being sometimes nearly ten yards in thickness. Rotherhithe, though gravel is usually found beneath it at some little depth from the surface, is on the alluvial plain and must often have been under water; indeed as old maps show us, not a little of the broad peninsula round which the Thames takes its course to Deptford, was occupied by shallow meres,

[1] I am indebted for this information to Dr J. J. H. Teall, F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey, who writes, "The Baker Street and Waterloo Railway crosses the Thames close to the Charing Cross Railway Bridge. At both shore ends it is driven in London Clay, but for some 350 feet, a little to the south of the centre of the present course, it passes through the Old Thames valley gravels, lying in an eroded hollow in the clay. On the north side of the centre of the river the tube emerges from the clay almost exactly under the deepest point of the present bed, but the deepest part of the old channel lies some 250 feet south-east of this point and is about 80 feet below Ordnance datum and some 50 feet below the base of the present channel." (See *Proceedings of Institute of Civil Engineers*, vol. 150, Pt. IV. (1901–2).)

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of which the great Commercial Docks are to a certain extent the successors and memorials[1].

[1] For sections in this part of the Thames valley see *Geology of London* (W. Whitaker), vol. II. The following (p. 187) may serve as an example of Bermondsey. Crimscott Street: 11 feet above O.D. Sand and Gravel 29 feet resting on London Clay, the base of which was 24 feet below O.D. Gravel, generally not less than 20 feet thick, was pierced at Blue Anchor Road, Drummond Road, Grange Road, Horney Lane, Market Street, New Weston Street and other places. At Rotherhithe (see pages 217, 218, 312, 313, 333) the alluvial deposit is thicker—perhaps a dozen feet. Good sections of this and the underlying gravel were found in the recent excavations for the mouth of the Rotherhithe and Shadwell tunnel which is in course of construction by the London County Council under the Thames; the former deposit consisting of clay (river mud) with occasional streaks of peat or peaty earth.

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CHAPTER III.

ROTHERHITHE IN ROMAN AND SAXON TIMES.

OUR belief is that the great river wall or embankment which exists on both sides of the river Thames is the work of the Romans.

If this belief be correct we may assume that the first human inhabitants of this place settled in it during the period of the Roman occupation of Britain, viz. from B.C. 54, the date of the landing of Julius Cæsar, to A.D. 411.

When men began to settle here it must have been, at first, along the river bank, for no other part of Rotherhithe could have been habitable for many years till the swamps and marshy ground had been gradually drained and brought under cultivation. The traces of Roman occupation, apart from Roman engineering enterprise, are almost entirely wanting.

Coins, pottery and other Roman relics, which are found in such great abundance in London itself, and in places like York, Lincoln, or Colchester where the Roman legions encamped and built strongholds, have, with one exception[1], not been found in Rotherhithe, and we can therefore only feel thankful to that great conquering nation for our Rotherhithe wall, the bulwark which prevents us from being inundated twice in every twenty-four hours by the tides, and which protects our low-lying districts south of the Thames, the whole of which are well below high-water mark.

[1] In Plough Road, during the excavations for the large Jute Warehouses which were erected there in or about 1867, an earthenware vessel was dug up containing a great quantity of Roman coins, some 1300 in all, said to be of the reign of the Emperor Hadrian. This "Crock" with some of the coins is at the dock offices.

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Rotherhithe wall is a continuation of Bermondsey wall, and the latter is a continuation of a similar river embankment both below and above London Bridge, including the well-known Bank-side and the Lambeth district. On the northern shore of the Thames the river walls were not so essential; for the land rises steeply from the water's edge up Gravel Lane to the Ratcliff (or Red-Cliff) Highway.

Yet Wapping wall was built to protect the "long-shore" district of Wapping, and no doubt traces of the Roman wall could be found elsewhere; and the preservation of the embankment all along the course of the river, past Deptford and Greenwich, is a matter of life and death to us, as the subsequent history of Rotherhithe will show, when the carelessness of riverside owners at various epochs allowed the incoming tide to cause a breach in the river wall, spreading distress and entailing almost irreparable damage to property.

Passing to the Saxon period, A.D. 449–1016, we infer from the name which our parish bears that it was by Saxon mariners and settlers that Redriff was first practically inhabited and became a township and parish.

At what date these Saxons built a church here we have no record[1]. But assuredly when the mission of St Augustine in A.D. 596 had begun the work of evangelization in Kent, it would not have been long before the light of the Gospel would have penetrated into this part of England. It was we know in A.D. 604, just 1300 years ago, that St Augustine, then Archbishop of Canterbury, founded the See of London, sending his companion Mellitus to be the first Bishop and to erect St Paul's Cathedral on Ludgate Hill.

Rotherhithe, like the other south London parishes, was once in the Diocese of Winchester, whose first Bishop was St Birinus, consecrated Bishop of Dorchester A.D. 634.

The story of the foundation of Westminster Abbey in Thorney Island, and the gift by St Peter of a tithe of the fish caught in the Thames to his abbot and convent, has a

[1] Indeed if they did build a church here at all, it must have been a very humble structure; perhaps only a chapel; for Rotherhithe was a part of the greater parish of Bermondsey.

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curious interest for the rector and parishioners of Rotherhithe which may well find mention in this chapter of Saxon memories.

And from Dean Stanley's memorials of Westminster Abbey[1] we are able to extract the fascinating legend of Edric the Fisherman.

Legend of Edric the Fisherman.

The great and famous Abbey of St Peter, founded by the last of our Saxon kings St Edward the Confessor in 1050, had among its earliest legends one which assured to the abbot a tithe of the fish caught in the Thames.

The legend runs thus: On a certain Sunday night in the reign of King Sebert (circa 616), on the eve of the day fixed by Mellitus, first Bishop of London, for the consecration of the original monastery in the Isle of Thorns, a fisherman named Edric was casting his net from the shore of the island into the Thames.

On the other side of the river, where Lambeth now stands, a bright light attracted his notice.

He crossed, and found a venerable personage in foreign attire calling for some one to ferry him over the dark stream. Edric consented. The stranger landed and proceeded at once to the church.

On his way he evoked with his staff the two springs of the island. The air suddenly became bright with a celestial splendour. The building stood out clear "without darkness or shadow." A host of angels, descending and re-ascending with sweet odours and flaming candles, assisted, and the church was dedicated with the usual solemnities. The fisherman remained in his boat, so awestruck by the sight, that when the mysterious visitant returned and asked for food he was obliged to reply that he had not caught a single fish.

Then the stranger revealed his name: "I am Peter, keeper of the keys of heaven. When Mellitus arrives to-morrow tell him what you have seen: and show him the token that

[1] Chapter I. p. 20.

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I St Peter have consecrated my own church of St Peter, Westminster, and have anticipated the Bishop of London. For yourself, go out into the river; you will catch a plentiful supply of fish, whereof the larger part shall be salmon. This I have granted on two conditions—first, that you never fish again on Sundays; secondly, that you pay a tithe of them to the Abbey of Westminster."

Thus Mellitus next morning found himself forestalled.

But herein is contained the claim established by the Convent of Westminster on the tithe of the Thames fisheries from Gravesend to Staines.

In 1282 a law-suit was successfully carried by the Abbot of Westminster against the Rector of Rotherhithe, who for his part claimed the tithe of all fish caught off the shore of his parish.

It went against the Rector on the ground that St Peter had granted to the Abbot the first haul.

* * * * * * * *

Once a year, as late as 1382, one of the Thames fishermen, as representative of Edric, took his place beside the Prior, and brought in a salmon for St Peter. It was carried in state through the middle of the refectory. The Prior and the whole fraternity rose as it passed up to the high table, and then the fisherman received ale and bread from the cellarer in return for the fish's tail[1].

Canute's Dyke.

The Saxon *Chronicle* tells us that in 1016 Canute the Dane brought his ships to Greenwich, and after stopping there a short time proceeded up the river to London, "where they sank a deep ditch on the south side, and dragged their ships to the west side of the bridge."

The meaning of this statement seems to be that the Danes towed their war-ships past the bridge through a trench or canal which they dug on the Surrey side of the river for that purpose.

[1] See Westminster "Customary" ii. 103 (Henry Bradshaw Society).

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It is traditionally believed that "Canute's Dyke" began in the parish of Rotherhithe.

The following is the account given by Maitland in 1739 of his attempt to trace the course of the canal or trench, dug by Canute in 1016, to get his ships past London Bridge:

"By a diligent search of several days," he says, "I discovered the vestigia and length of this artificial water-course: its outflux from the river Thames was where the Great Wet Dock below Rotherhithe is situate; whence, running due west by the seven houses in Rotherhithe fields, it continues its course by a gentle winding to the Drain Wind-mill; and with a west-north-west course passing St Thomas of Watering's, by an easy turning it crosses the Deptford [Kent] Road, a little to the south-east of the Lock Hospital, at the lower end of Kent Street, and proceeding to Newington Butts, intersects the road a little south of the turnpike; whence, continuing its course by the 'Black Prince,' in Lambeth Road, on the north of Kennington, it runs west-and-by-south, through the Spring Garden at Vauxhall, to its influx into the Thames at the lower end of Chelsea Reach[1]."

This was written more than 165 years ago; and even at that time the ingenious and painstaking investigator admits that part of the line which he so minutely described was not very discernible to ordinary eyes. But we fear that in the work of obliteration the last century has done more than all the seven that preceded it.

Maitland adds, in confirmation of his view, that he enquired of a carpenter named Webster, who had been employed in making the Great Wet Dock at Rotherhithe in 1694, and learned from him that in the course of that work "there was dug up in the bank of the river a great quantity of hazel, willows, and other small wood of a considerable height, laid close together endways, pointing northward, with rows of stakes drove in to fasten them"; whence Maitland came to the conclusion that here had been the south bank of the mouth of the canal.

[1] Maitland's *London*, ed. 1739, p. 26.

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There are several other theories as to the course of "Canute's Dyke," as it may well be believed that a much shorter cut would have served his turn; but it is beyond our province to enter into these theories. We will only remark that Canute had to avoid the fortified outworks of Southwark as well as the Bridge. The actual course of his trench was probably guided by the natural inundations from the river over the low-lying marshy ground.

It should be added that there is preserved in the Guildhall Museum a wooden pile which was dug up in St George's Fields, and this pile is believed to have been one of those which lined the course of the famous Dyke[1].

[1] The course of Canute's Dyke as described by Maitland begins with the Howland "Great Wet Dock," and passes "the Seven Houses" which stand at present opposite Trinity Church with their back yards abutting upon the churchyard. The road which bounds the Parish of Rotherhithe where it touches the Parish of Bermondsey on the south is called the "Galley-Wall Road." The name is certainly a strange one; and it seems to lend itself to the conjecture that the war galleys of Canute might have passed that way in the Dyke which was dug between two "walls" or embankments, perhaps deepening an existing depression in the ground.

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CHAPTER IV.

THE NORMAN AND PLANTAGENET PERIOD. ROTHERHITHE UNDER MONASTIC RULE.

NOT long after the Norman Conquest a new influence made itself felt in this part of South London. In 1082 A.D. the great Benedictine Priory of St Saviour, Bermondsey, was founded, and in 1399 Pope Boniface the Ninth, at the request of King Richard the Second, erected it into an abbey. For no less than 453 years, i.e. from its foundation in 1082 till its dissolution on January 1, 1535, the parishes of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe were more or less under the sway both temporal and spiritual of the prior and convent, which had acquired much wealth and influence by the endowments of sovereigns and nobles in successive ages.

There was indeed a still more ancient foundation in Southwark, St Mary Overie, which owed its collegiate character to St Swithun, Bishop of Winchester from 852 to 862, and later on Canons Regular of the Order of St Augustine were established in the place of the college of priests. But great as was the Priory of St Mary Overie, it was the Abbey of St Saviour, Bermondsey, which dominated south-east London. The Benedictine Order encouraged study and learning, as well as asceticism and devotion, and we may well be thankful that in an age of much ignorance and violence and tyranny and oppression the light of learning and piety shone out from the monasteries over the darkness of the land.

The Manor of Rotherhithe, as distinct from that of Bermondsey, of which it appears to have been originally a part,

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was vested in the crown. For we find that William Rufus in the seventh year of his reign (A.D. 1094) reserved it to himself when he granted the Bermondsey Manor to the newly-erected Priory of St Saviour, and Rotherhithe Manor remained in the crown as parcel of the royal demesne till the time of Henry I, when that king gave one moiety thereof to Robert, his natural son; and the other moiety in the twenty-seventh year of his reign (A.D. 1127) to the Priory of Bermondsey. It was in this way that half of the Manor of Rotherhithe came to form part of the endowments of the great abbey, and it will be important to trace the history of the two moieties of the manor through succeeding ages.

Manor of the Honour of Gloucester.

The moiety of the Manor of Rotherhithe, which was given to Robert by his father King Henry the First, became associated with the great Manor of the Honour of Gloucester; for Robert, by his marriage with Mabel, daughter of Robert Fitz-Hamon, was in possession of the Honour of Gloucester, and to it he annexed his Rotherhithe Manor.

This Robert was created Earl of Gloucester in 11 Henry I.

He was a very important personage; for being brother, by his father, to the Empress Maud, he was one of the foremost among the assertors of her right to the crown. He conducted her to England in July, 1138 (3 Stephen), and it was he who took Stephen prisoner after the battle of Lincoln, 2nd Feb., 1140–1. He died 31st Oct., 12 Stephen, A.D. 1147.

William, the son and successor of Robert, married Hawise, daughter of Robert, surnamed Bossu, Earl of Leicester, and died 23rd Nov., 20 Henry II, A.D. 1173, without male issue, when the king seised his earldom and Honour of Gloucester into his own hands.

Amicia, daughter of William, and at length sole heir of his estates, married Richard, Lord of Clare and Earl of Hertford, and thus the half Manor of Rotherhithe passed into the possession of the great mediæval family of de Clare, who owned manors and advowsons in most of the counties of England.

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This family took its name from the Honour of Clare, an ancient town in the county of Suffolk.

Gilbert, her son, was seised in her right of the Honour of Gloucester in 2 Henry III, and was also afterwards invested with the earldom of that county.

Gilbert, grandson of Gilbert aforesaid, to whom the Honour and earldom descended on the death of his father Richard in 1262 (46 Henry III), was likewise seised of the half Manor of Rotherhithe, which was holden of him by Robert Burnel, Bishop of Bath and Wells, by the service of half a knight's fee, 2*s.* 2*d.*, annual rent and suit of the court of the said Gilbert at his Manor of Camerwell. This Bishop Robert Burnel will appear again when we trace the history of the other moiety (see p. 24).

Gilbert, the son of Richard, was surnamed "The Red." He was 7th Earl of Hertford and 3rd Earl of Gloucester, and married Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I.

His son was yet another Gilbert, who was slain at the battle of Bannockburn on 25th June, 1314 (7 Edward II), dying without issue, and his three surviving sisters became his co-heiresses. The third sister, Elizabeth de Burgh, was a woman of great piety and enlightenment. To this illustrious lady, herself a scion of the great de Clare family, and likewise of royal descent, for her mother was Joan of Acre, daughter of King Edward the First, we owe the refoundation of the college which bears her honoured name in the University of Cambridge—"the College, Hall or House of Clare." It is interesting to know that her brother Gilbert was lord of the moiety of the Manor of Rotherhithe, and that 400 years later, in 1730, the Master, Fellows and Scholars of her college became patrons of the advowson of the benefice of St Mary, Rotherhithe, in right whereof they have ever since presented the rectors of Rotherhithe to this living till the present day.

Manor of the Priory of Bermondsey.

We must now revert to the moiety of the Manor of Rotherhithe, which was given by King Henry the First to the Priory of Bermondsey.

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Of that moiety Robert Burnel, Bishop of Bath and Wells, held one messuage, 6 acres of arable land, 13 acres of meadow, and £1. 15*s.* per annum of assised (i.e. assessed) duty, by the yearly service of 14*s.* 1*d.* and suit of their court at Bermondsey. These amounted, according to the survey of 21 Edward I, to the clear value of £3. 5*s.* 3*d.*, and as he likewise held of the Honour of Gloucester 2 messuages, 52 acres of arable land, and 32 acres of meadow, all together of the clear annual value £7. 9*s.* 10*d.*, Robert Burnel's total holding in Rotherhithe was £10. 15*s.* 1*d.*

This Robert Burnel was of the family of that name of Acton Burnel in the county of Salop; and he was a person of great eminence and authority in the court of King Edward I. He was Lord Treasurer of England, and afterwards (21st Sept., 1274) made Chancellor, in which office he continued till his death. In 18 Edward I he had a grant from the prior and convent "to him and to his heirs of a way in the Vill of Retherhith to drive their cattle to water in the Prior's Park adjoining to the Thames at Retherhith Wall." But shortly after, attending the king into Scotland as one of the commissioners for settling the claims of Balliol and Bruce, he died at Berwick 25th October, 1292, leaving Philip his nephew and heir; who, being then twenty-five years of age and doing his homage, had livery of these and other the said Robert's estates. He died in 22 Edward I, leaving by Maud, his wife, daughter of Richard, Earl of Arundel, Edward his son and heir, at that time only twelve years of age, and a daughter Maud, wife of Lord Lovel of Tichmarsh.

As we read these old manorial records we are struck with many thoughts.

(1) The rapid succession of owners and tenants.

(2) The connection of earls, barons, bishops, and gentlemen of high degree with our parish of Rotherhithe.

(3) The early marriages of both sons and daughters in these mediæval families, where the frequent wars and troublous times made it necessary for young ladies of high birth to have the protection of powerful husbands to maintain their rights.

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(4) The side lights thrown upon the outward aspect of our vill or township, e.g. "the Prior's Park" leading down to the watering place by Rotherhithe wall.

Edward, the heir of Philip, making proof of his age in 1 Edward II, had livery of his lands; and having been summoned to parliament as a baron of the realm from 5 to 8 Edward II, died without issue 9 Edward II, 1315, leaving Maud, his sister, his heir, and Aliva, his wife, daughter of Hugh Despenser, Earl of Winchester, surviving. He held his estate here, as his ancestors had done, by the service of an annual rent and suit of the prior's court at Bermondsey.

Maud, sometime the wife of Lord Lovel, lost her husband by death 8 Edward II, but was soon married to her second husband, John de Handlou, who doing his fealty had livery of all the lands of Edward Burnel, his wife's brother, such only excepted as Aliva his widow held in dower, of which this Manor of Rotherhithe seems to have been one.

This John de Handlou died on 5th August, 20 Edward III, 1346, leaving his grandson, Edmund de Handlou, his next heir. But the estates of which he died seised in Rotherhithe, with most of those that belonged to the family of Burnel, were by fine levied hereof in 18 Edward II settled upon and descended to Nicholas, a second son of John by Maud aforesaid, at that time twenty-three years of age, who thereupon took the surname of Burnel, and in 22 Edward II had livery of his lands (those in Rotherhithe are described as 13 acres of arable worth *4d.* an acre when ploughed and sowed), and he, on the death of Aliva, relict of Edward aforesaid, had livery of this and other estates which she had holden in dower.

He died in 1382–3, and left Hugh, his son and heir, thirty-six years of age; who doing his homage had livery of his lands. This Hugh had been reputed a principal favourite of Richard II, and as such was banished the court among the evil counsellors of that weak prince in the eleventh year of his reign. Yet so popular was he become at the time the king was deposed as to be one of the lords then sent to the Tower to receive his resignation of the crown in form.

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He died 27th Nov., 8 Henry V. His only son Edward having predeceased him without male issue this manor, with the rest of the Burnel estates brought into the Handlou family by Maud, his great-grandmother, reverted to her right heir, viz. *William*, great-great-grandson of the said Maud by John Lord *Lovel*, her first husband, at that time twenty-one years of age.

While Hugh, the father of Edward, was in possession of this estate, viz. 21 Richard II, the Priory of Bermondsey, of whom he held it as capital lords of the fee, became seised of the feudal property of the other moiety of the manor holden of the Honour of Gloucester, by demise from the abbat and convent of St Mary de Gratiis in the manner already related.

From this time therefore they are to be considered as proprietors of *the whole manor*, viz. one moiety in *demesne*[1], and the other in demesne as of fee. (1398.)

But to return—*William*, descended from John Lord *Lovel* aforesaid, who held the former moiety of the convent, married Alice, sister and co-heir of William Lord d'Eincourt (widow of Ralph Boteler, Lord Sudley), and died seised of this manor 13th June, 33 Henry VI, A° 1455, leaving John his son and heir, and William a younger son.

John, the eldest son, being firmly attached to the house of Lancaster, was one of those who, on the landing of the Earl of March at Sandwich in 38 Henry VI, A° 1460, accompanied the Lord Scales to London in order to gain over the city to the king. Failing in their attempt, they threw themselves into the Tower, which, after the battle of Northampton, July 9th, the Lord Scales was obliged to give up, when he himself was slain in attempting to escape in disguise, and many of his adherents put to death. What became of Sir John Lovel on this occasion we are not told. He had married Joan, sister and heir of William Viscount Beaumont, by whom he left Francis his son and heir, then nine years old.

Francis the son of John in 22 Edward IV attended the

[1] *Demesne*. That part of the lands of a manor which the lord has not granted out in tenancy, but which is reserved for his own use and occupation.

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Duke of Gloucester (then Lieutenant-General of the Army) into Scotland; and on the 4th of January following was promoted to the dignity of Viscount. On the advancement of the Duke to the crown he was made knight of the garter and lord chamberlain of the king's household, and fought under his standard at the battle of Bosworth. On the defeat of Richard he escaped into Burgundy, whence he returned with the forces raised by the Duchess for the service of the house of York, whose pretensions he continued to uphold, and in support of which he fell at the battle of Stoke, near Newark, 16th July, 1487.

By the attainder of Francis in the parliament which met at Westminster soon after the battle of Bosworth, viz. 7th Nov., 1 Henry VII, A° 1485, his estates became forfeited to *the Crown*.

Among these was the remainder of this estate expectant on the death of *Henry Lord Morley*, his first cousin. For William the grandfather of *Francis* had given this to William, his younger son, with remainder to his own right heir, and from him it descended to Henry Lord Morley, his son, who was now seised thereof in fee tail with remainder to Francis and his heirs, which remainder now became forfeited to the king.

Henry died without issue about four years after, being slain at the siege of Dixmede 13th June, 1489, when the king entered into possession. (1489 to 1515.)

The estate was called 40 acres of land and pasture with the appurtenances in Rederith being holden of the *Abbey of Bermundsey*, and reputed to be of the clear yearly value of £4, and was granted by letters patent of King Henry VIII dated 27th June, 1515, to *Gerard Danett*, esquire of the body, by the name of the king's maner of Rederhith. But it appearing, by an inquisition taken at Southwark 9th May, 1516, that the lands had for a long time been held by the convent of the said Henry and his ancestors owners thereof, at the aforesaid rent of £4, and were so intermixed with those of his own former occupation, that it was become impossible to ascertain their bounds, Danett at their request surrendered his grant 25th July following, when the prior and *convent of*

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Bermondsey obtained a conveyance of them to themselves: "to hold to them and to their successors of the king and his heirs for ever, in pure and perpetual alms, for the purpose of celebrating an obit on the anniversary of the king's death when it should happen, for the souls of himself and Queen Catharine his wife, of King Henry VII his father, and Elizabeth his queen, and of all faithful people departed, in their abbey church of Bermundsey, in like manner as for their founder."

This grant to the convent was dated at Westminster 26th August, 1516.

The convent was surrendered 1st January, 1537–8, 29 Henry VIII. In the same year the maner of Retherhith (consisting of the two maners, now united, which have been separately treated of above) passed to the crown, and so continued until the reign of Charles I, when it was granted at the request of *Sir Alan Apsley* (and probably in trust for him) to *William White* and others.

In 1668 a court was holden in the name of *James* (3rd) *Earl of Salisbury*, who continued lord of the manor till his death in June, 1683, when it descended to *James*, his son, (4th) *Earl of Salisbury*, who continued lord of the manor until the year 1692, when it appears to have been alienated to *John Bennet, Esq.*, a relation of his Countess (who was daughter and co-heir of Simon Bennet of Beechampton, Bucks), and in his name the courts were holden until 1706, in which year *John Jolley* and *Benjamin Morrett* appear lords until 1720.

From that time till 1739 the courts were holden in the name of *Thomas Scawen, Esq.*

From 1740 they were held in trust for *Sir Charles Wager.*

The history of the manor of Rotherhithe from 1740 till the present time will be continued in a subsequent chapter, when we shall learn how it came into the possession of the family of Sir William Maynard Gomm.

Some isolated facts during the mediæval period must be recorded under their respective dates.

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(a) *The River Wall.*

The neighbourhood of the Thames was and still remains a source of danger from the frequent overflowing of its waters, during exceptionally high tides, aggravated by the prevalence of high winds. Provision against this inconvenience had to be made from the earliest times; at first, probably, private occupants had to be at charges for the work; but as buildings increased, and the value of property improved, such protective works naturally became a matter of public duty.

The first undertaking for this purpose that has been recorded is that of Bartholomew and James de Courteray who "in 14 Henry III, Anno Domini 1230, began to inclose the lands of the Breach at Rederith on one part and John de Rocheford on the other." But whether this was an act of their own for the security of their particular and private property, or set on foot by the direction of public authority, we are not informed.

The Chronicle of Bermondsey Abbey records several disastrous breaches in the river wall.

In 23 Edward I, A.D. 1295, through the neglect of those who ought to have maintained the banks near Retherhith, the breaches thereof were become so considerable that a great part of the marshes in its neighbourhood were drowned. Thereupon the king seised the land into his own hands, and committed the recovery of them and the repair of the breaches to William Howard (soon after one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas), to whom he assigned a sum of money for that purpose.

But this, with the addition of considerable sums expended by himself on this occasion, proving insufficient for the accomplishment of the work, the said king, in the 34th year of his reign, A.D. 1306, by the advice of his council, ordained that all those lands so seised to his use should be demised to such person as would undertake the draining of them, to have and to hold and to receive the profits of the same, until he should re-imburse himself to the full amount of the expenses. But this proposal seems not to have had the effect that was intended by it: for in two years after, viz. in 2 Edward II, A° 1309, the prior and convent of Bermondsey, who had a park and other lands adjoining to the very bank of the river, called Retherhith wall, received such damage from the inundation of these by a breach in those parts that they were

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exempted from the purveyance of hay and corn, unless by their own consent. On this occasion John de Foxle and Walter de Gloucestre were commissioned to take a view thereof and provide for its repair. A like breach happened about two years after, on the banks of the marshes of Southwarke, formerly belonging to the knights templars, but then in the king's hands; when the king being advised thereof, directed his precept dated at Berwick-on-Tweed, 23rd May, 1314, unto William de Montalt, who had custody of these lands, commanding him, out of the profits of the same, to have them speedily repaired.

In 9 Edward II, A° 1316, Richard de Repham and Edmund de Passle were appointed commissioners for viewing and repairing the banks between London Bridge and Fauxhall, and a certain bank in the lands of the Bishop of Winchester in Southwarke which was decayed and broken: as also the several ditches[1] now choked, by which the fresh waters were drained off into the Thames; with orders to distrain for the repair of it on those on whose lands it began, and on such others as were obliged to maintain it.

In 26 Edward III, A° 1352, William Thorpe, James Husee and William de Fifhyde were appointed commissioners for viewing and repairing the banks at the Stews in St Mary Overey's, and in the other places adjacent, by the breach whereof divers lands and meadows lay then totally drowned.

In 32 Edward III, A° 1359, Edmund Chelleye, Thomas Morice and Michael Skilling had the like appointment for those banks near the Stews which were opposite to the mansion-house of John de Mowbray; before whom divers presentments being made, fines were levied on some, precepts for repairing issued to others, and certificates granted to such as had already performed their duty. Amongst the latter were the prior of St John of Jerusalem, who had two mills there, and other lands to the value of £40 per annum; and the aforesaid Sir John de Mowbray, knight, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heiress of John de Segrave.

In 42 Edward III, A° 1368, John Lovekin, William Tauke, William de Newdigate, and others were assigned to repair the banks, &c., from Danyele's wall in Surrey to Reddisbourne in Kent; and in 48 Edward III, A° 1374, Robert Belknap, William Halden, Roger Dygge, and others, for the banks

[1] At the south-east part of the parish of Rotherhithe, where it borders on the county of Kent, is "the Earle's Sluice," by means of which the meadows between the Thames and the great road leading into Kent are watered or drained as occasion requires.

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between Danyele's wall aforesaid and the lands of the prior of St Mary, Overey, at a meadow called Crouch-Mead.

In 3 Richard II, A° 1380, Robert Belknap, Nicholas Henry, and others were appointed commissioners for repairing the banks between Grenewiche and London Bridge.

In 8 Richard II, A° 1385, a commission was granted to Sir William Walworth and others; and in 22 Richard II, A° 1399, to William Makenade, Robert Oxenbrigge, and others; and in 5 Henry IV, A° 1404, to the said William Makenade, Robert Oxenbrigge, and others for the same district.

In 5 Henry V, A° 1417, a commission was granted to John Preston, John Martyn, and others for the banks between Deptford Strand and Bermondsey, wherein they were directed to act according to "the Custom of the Marsh" and "the Law and Custom of the Realm."

In 22 Henry VI, A° 1444, Sir John Burcastre and Richard Barmie were assigned to view and repair all the banks along the Thames and marshes adjoining, in the parishes and hamlets of Lambehithe, Paris Garden (now the parish of Christ Church in Southwark), Bermondsey, Retherhith, Deptford Strand, Peckham, Hatcham, Camerwell, Stokwell, Clapham, and Newington, and to make such laws as were necessary for the preservation of them. They were invested also with the extraordinary power of impressing labourers to be employed in this work, upon competent salaries, in consideration of the great necessity, at this time, for the speedy despatch of it.

In 25 Henry VI, A° 1447, a commission was given to John Bamburgh, Richard Bamme, and others; and

In 31 Henry VI, A° 1453, Sir John Burcestre, Knt, Richard Waller, and others; and in 33 Henry VI, A° 1455, Sir John Bourgchier, Knt, Sir John Burcestre, Knt, Sir John Cheyne, and others; and in 5 Edward IV, A° 1465, Sir Ralph Josselyn, Knt, Lord Mayor of London, Sir Walter Moyle, Knt, Sir John Burcestre, Knt, Nicholas Gaynesford, Esq., and others; and in 14 Edward IV, A° 1474, Richard Fenys, Lord Dacres, John, Abbot of Bermondsey, Henry, Prior of St Mary Overey's, William Crosse, Master of St Thomas' Hospital, and others were respectively put into commission for viewing and repairing the several banks along the Thames from Grenewiche to Wandsworth.

In later reigns commissions of sewers, &c., have been issued, not by the king direct, but by the lord chancellor under the great seal, or by the lord chancellor, the lord

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treasurer, and the two chief justices under regulations for impanelling juries and other matters.

So great has been the necessity for preserving the lands adjacent to great rivers and to the sea-shore. The subsequent history of Rotherhithe marsh and its protecting wall has been chiefly connected with the formation of the Great Wet Docks, the Howland Dock, and subsequently the Surrey and Commercial Docks, which will form the subject of a separate chapter.

But it is interesting to note that the preservation and heightening of the river wall which formed so great a pre-occupation of our forefathers has never ceased to cause anxiety to the parochial authorities down to the present day. When the parish church of Rotherhithe was rebuilt in 1715, it was raised to a considerable height as a precaution against flooding, the principal entrance being approached by a flight of steps.

When the Thames Embankment was constructed about the year 1865, and the waters of the Thames were thus confined, the low-lying parishes on the south side of the river suffered severely from floods. The vestry of Rotherhithe called upon all waterside owners to raise the river wall to the extent of 18 inches, and all public rights of way to the river were likewise raised.

The engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works, Sir J. W. Bazalgette, disclaimed all allegations made as to his great work being the cause of our misfortune, but the fact remained that Rotherhithe, which had been sufficiently protected against high tides before the Embankment was made, was flooded more than once after the waters above London Bridge were unable any longer to flow over the sloping shore of the river.

Even after the Rotherhithe wall had been heightened our parish experienced one more disastrous inundation. On the evening of January 26, 1881, in the midst of a blinding snow-storm the high tide, impelled by a furious gale, overflowed the banks, and burst through the retaining wall of one of the dry docks in Rotherhithe Street, flooding the dwellings of the inhabitants and inflicting great damage and misery on the poorer inhabitants, so that a public subscription had to be raised to recompense them for loss to their furniture and property.

Indeed, constant vigilance has still to be exercised in maintaining tide-boards and other protections. So recently as December, 1904, the tide overflowed the banks and cut off communication between the lower and upper parts of the town.

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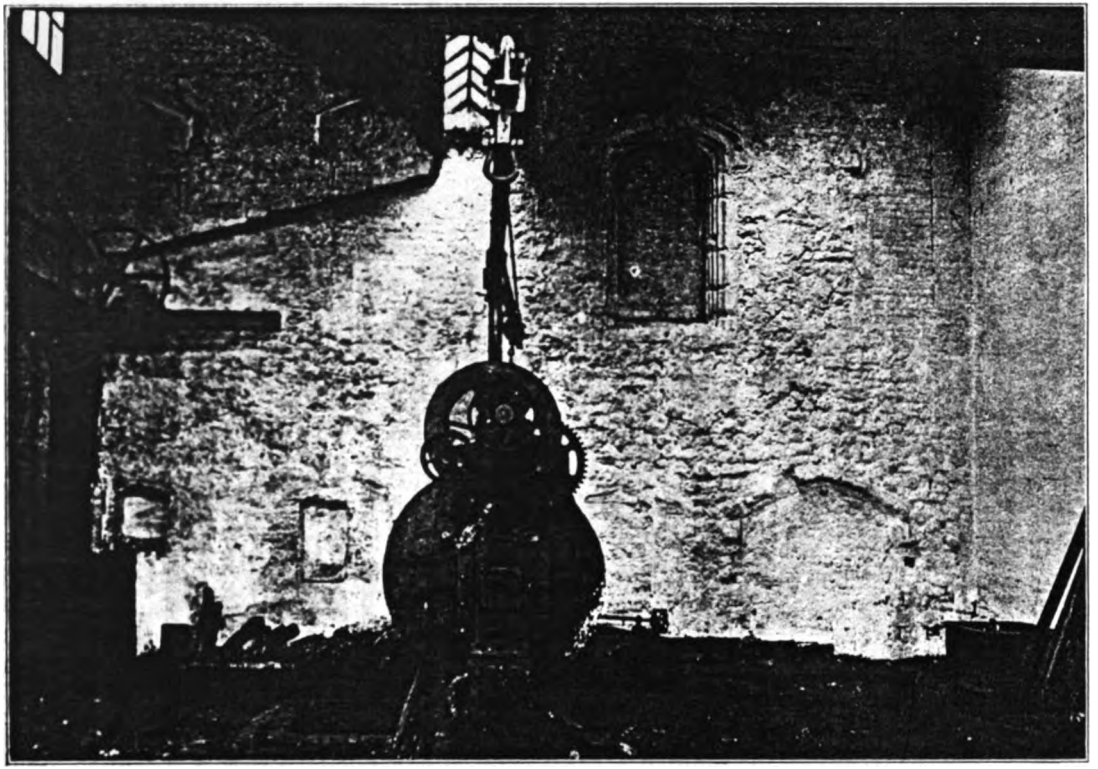

Ancient Wall near Platform Wharf, Rotherhithe, now in the workshops of Messrs Wilmott and Cabon, Engineers.

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(*b*) *King Henry the Fourth a resident in Rotherhithe.*

Lambarde speaks of King Henry IV being lodged "in an old Stone House here, whiles he was cured of a Leprosie."

It is certain that a Charter of July 5, 1412, was signed by him, dated from Rotherhithe, creating Thomas Beaufort Earl of Dorset, as also another of the 9th day of the same month creating Thomas, the king's second son, Duke of Clarence.

The above-named "old Stone House" in which the king resided for a short period must have been of some considerable size.

There is existing to the present day a portion of a mediæval wall built of a chalky stone, facing the platform wharf on Rotherhithe wall, which may very possibly have been part of this old Stone House. The present writer had long since been aware of the existence of this ancient wall, the late Mr Groves having drawn his attention to the inner face of it, where it forms part of his granary. The northern or outer face was at that time hidden by a private house which had been built in the street in front of it. But this house was recently acquired by Messrs Wilmott and Cobon, a firm of engineers, and pulled down for the extension of their works. In this way the wall of the old house was once more brought to light, and careful drawings have been made of it, showing the doorways and window openings on two stories now blocked up, together with the angle of the building where it was carried southward.

There is every appearance of its having been a large house, for the granaries now built against it go back as far as to Paradise Street, following the line of Love Lane.

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CHAPTER V.

THE PARISH CHURCH AND ITS RECTORS.

THE original parish church of Rotherhithe or some small chapel for divine service may well have been built in Saxon times when first the waterside part of the parish became habitable through the building of the river-wall. But of this first church, if indeed it ever existed, we have no record; it would probably have borne the present dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary, therein following the common usage of waterside churches on the south shore of the Thames—e.g. St Mary, Lambeth; St Mary, Battersea; St Mary Overie, Southwark.

The site of the church remains unchanged: it is quite central for the parish and we shall not be far wrong in believing that on this spot the altar of God has stood for more than a thousand years. This primitive [Saxon] church, small in size and rude in materials, must have been succeeded by a mediæval church probably in the early part of the fourteenth century, for the first rector whose name has come down to us was instituted in 1310; and the parishioners in 1715 when petitioning Parliament for aid to rebuild their dilapidated parish church speak of the existing structure as having stood for over 400 years.

The benefice is a rectory in the Deanery of Southwark, and was originally in the Diocese of Winchester; indeed it remained under the jurisdiction of the bishops of Winton until the year 1877, when Bishop Harold Browne, coming

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from the Diocese of Ely, mostly rural in its character, found himself at a somewhat advanced age face to face with South London and its teeming population, and obtained a re-arrangement of Diocesan boundaries whereby Rotherhithe (in common with the rest of the parishes south of the Thames) was transferred to the re-constructed Diocese of Rochester, and so came under the masterly rule of the great organizer, Dr Anthony Wilson Thorold, first bishop of the re-arranged see of Rochester. But even this arrangement was to be only a temporary one; indeed South London was but little nearer to its new cathedral at Rochester than it had been to Winchester since 634. And now in March 1905 the new Diocese of Southwark is constituted, and Dr Talbot the Bishop of Rochester has been appointed to be Bishop of Southwark with his cathedral of St Saviour, formerly St Mary Overie, at the southern foot of London Bridge, and the South London parishes, with parts of the counties of Surrey and Kent grouped around it, forming the new Southwark Diocese, vast in population, but compact in area, and presenting manifold problems to be solved in bringing Christianity into possession of the land, and the power of the Gospel and the discipline of the Church to exercise their saving influence on the hearts of men.

The benefice of St Mary, Rotherhithe, is valued in 20 Edward I and afterwards at 20 marcs per annum; at which time it paid a yearly pension of 20*s.* to the Prior and Convent of Bermondsey. In the Valor of Henry VIII it is rated at £18 per annum, and is charged with the payment of £1. 16*s.* 0*d.* to the king for tenths; 2*s.* 1*d.* to the bishop for synodals and 7*s.* 7½*d.* to the archdeacon for procurations.

The rectors of this church had license in 48 Edward III to amortize two tenements in the Vintry in London to the Abbey of St Mary de Gratiis on Tower Hill, at a fee-farm of 40*s.* per annum, which tenements had been granted to the rector and his successors in compensation of certain tythes of land, that had been taken away for repairing the banks of the Thames and in lieu of which they had been hitherto paid out of the Exchequer.

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In 1658 "it was presented to the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of ecclesiastical benefices that the Rectory of Redereth was worth about £92 per annum, and that the impropriation was vested in Captain Hurleston and Captain Joseph Dobbins the purchasers. By some legal controversy the presentation lapsed to the Lord Protector who intended to place there Mr Conyers Rutter; but Captain Dobbins, taking advantage of his absence, placed there Mr John Baker who then officiated there[1]."

The present greatly enhanced value of the benefice is due to the increase in the habitations required for the growing population of Rotherhithe, the glebe land having been let on long building leases and it is now covered with streets of small houses suitable for the occupation of working-class and artisan families.

The increase in the value of the living has enabled the rectors to alienate from the revenues of the mother parish several rent-charges for the endowment in part of the district parishes which have been created from time to time out of the original parish of St Mary.

The mediæval parish church, built early in the 14th century, was probably a small edifice somewhat like a village church, and we are told that the pillars which supported the roof were of a chalk-stone which readily crumbled and became in the course of four centuries quite dilapidated and ready to perish.

The erection of the present church in 1715 will be recorded in a subsequent chapter.

The list of rectors has been preserved in the register books of the successive Bishops of Winchester and is set forth in detail with the names of the patrons by whom they were presented for institution.

[1] Lysons, *Environs*, p. 474.

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RECTORS OF ROTHERHITHE.

1310—1537.

Patron.	*Name.*
Prior and Convent of Bermondsey.	1. John de Tocklive. Instituted 28 June 1310–1.
The same.	2. John de Cokham. Resigned 1317.
The same.	3. William de Alyngton. Inst. 28 March 1317, cess. 1318.
The same.	4. William at Brok. Inst. 8 Sept. 1318.
The same.	5. William Horne.
The same.	6. Nicholas de Brētford. Inst. 19 Mar. 1332–3[1], cess. 1334.
The same.	7. John Seman. Inst. 6 Feb. 1334–5, cess. 1336.
The same.	8. William de Suthwerk. Inst. 19 Oct. 1336, d. 1337.
The King.	9. John de Walyngford. Inst. 19 Dec. 1337, res. 1338.
The King.	10. Robert at Brome. Inst. 20 Aug. 1338, cess. 1338–9.

1. Reg. Woodloke, fol. 14 a.
2. Reg. Sandale, fol. 14 a.
3. Idem, fol. 47 b. Being instituted 22nd May to Rectory of Bedyngton, fol. 47 b.
4. Reg. Sandale, fol. 47 b.
5. He occurs rector 12th July, 1329. Reg. Stratford, fol. 208 b.
6. Reg. Stratford, fol. 133 b.
7. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 46 a. He had been vicar of Feryng in Essex from July, 1321, to this time. Newcourt Rep. II. 259.
8. Newcourt Rep. II. 259.
9. The King had the temporalities of the convent as an alien priory at this time in his own hands.
10. Reg. Orleton II. 67 a.

[1] On exchange for Wadeburst in Sussex. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 46 a.

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Patron.	*Name.*
The King.	11. John de Stanewegh. Inst. 12 Mar. 1338–9, cess.[1] 1339.
The King.	12. William Potente. Inst. 12 July 1339, cess. 1339.
	13. John Bisschop. Inst. 26 Aug. 1339, res. 1340.
The King.	14. Robert Bykyr. Inst. 10 May 1340, cess.[2] 1342.
Prior and Convent of Bermondsey.	15. Richard de Langford. Inst. 17 May 1342.
The same.	16. Paul de Dunton. Inst. 11 Oct. 1383.
The same.	17. John Brydale. Cess. 1387[3].
The same.	18. John Gretham. Inst. 21 June 1387.
The same.	19. Peter Fornham.
The same.	20. Henry Archer. Resigned 1461.
The same.	21. Geoffrey Faber (or Fabey). Inst. 12 Feb. 1461–2, cess.[4] 1465.
The same.	22. Thomas Hartley. Inst. 22 May 1465.

11. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 69 a.
12. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 74 a. In exchange for Spreckshall in Suffolk. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 76 a.
13. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 76 a.
14. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 83 a.
15. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 94 b.
16. Reg. Wickham I. fol. 148 b.
17. Reg. Wickham I. fol. 176 b; but his name is not found in Willis' Catalogue.
18. Reg. Wickham I. fol. 176 b.
19. Occurs rector 6 June, 1406. Reg. Beaufort, fol. 11 b.
20. Reg. Wainflete I. fol. 115 b.
21. Reg. Wainflete I. fol. 115 b.
22. Reg. Wainflete I. fol. 141 b.

[1] In exchange for King's Sutton in Northumberland. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 74 a.

[2] In exchange for Shaddynfield in Suffolk. Reg. Orleton II. fol. 94 a.

[3] In exchange for a prebend in the church of York.

[4] In exchange for Sullynton in Sussex.

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Patron.	*Name.*
The same.	23. William Raby. Resigned 1485.
The same.	24. John Drayton. Inst. 5 Nov. 1485, d. 1502.
The same.	25. Richard Wyllis, LL.B. Inst. 7 May 1502, d. 1523.
The same.	26. Bartholomew Prescue. Inst. 1523, d. 1534.
William Berkworth and Robt. May, assignees of Robt. Hoogan to whom as also to Thos. Henry and Robt. Fayrwall, dec., the advowson for this turn had been demised by the Abbot and Convent of Bermondsey.	27. Gregory Fayrwall. Inst. 23 Feb. 1534–5, d. 1537.
Abbot and Convent of Bermondsey.	28. John Fayrwall, M.A. Inst. 26 Sept. 1537, d. 1562.

23. Reg. Wainflete II. fol. 105 b.
24. Reg. Fox, p. 1, fol. 46.
25. Reg. Fox, p. 1, fol. 46. He was the same probably who had been instituted rector of Ramsden Crags in Essex, which he resigned in 1502 (Newcourt Rep. II. 488); and rector also of Bermondsey, 24 July this year.
26. Reg. Gardiner, fol. 22, 23.
27. Reg. Gardiner, fol. 22, 23.
28. Reg. Gardiner, fol. 33 a.

In this long list of twenty-eight rectors ranging over 250 years, most of whom were probably monks of Bermondsey, there is scarcely one of whom any personal trait of character can be traced. They were probably for the most part men of some learning as being members of a Benedictine monastery; and at least there is no trace of any want of harmony in their relations with their parishioners, to whom they ministered the Word and Sacraments during the two centuries and a half preceding the Reformation.

They doubtless took part in the internal history of the parish over which they were set, sympathising with their people in weal and woe, and especially in the anxious matter

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of the continual inroads of the tide through the breach in the river wall, which caused so much misery and devastation during this period of our history.

The succession of rectors after the Reformation of religion in the 16th century will be continued in the following chapter.

The great event which fell like a thunderbolt on England in the dissolution of the monasteries in 1535 must have been fraught with consequences far-reaching and deeply affecting all religious and social life in all the parishes of the land, and certainly here in Rotherhithe, where all church life had been so long dominated by the great Abbey of St Saviour, Bermondsey, the patrons of the benefice for so long a period, the change following the breaking up of this noble institution must have been painfully felt by all who, in spite of its many shortcomings, still loved the old order and cherished the memories of the ancient faith.

The reaction from the old Catholic ideal during the excesses of Puritan days was a terrible experience for the men who had to pass through it, and we may well sympathise with them in their trial, while we bless God that He has for us out of that fiery ordeal preserved so much of the primitive faith and practice from the general wreck that threatened to utterly destroy the Church of Christ in the land.

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CHAPTER VI.

POST-REFORMATION RECTORS.

ON the dissolution of the Monastery of Bermondsey the patronage of the benefice of St Mary, Rotherhithe, passed into lay hands; probably by purchase from the King.

The twenty-ninth rector was nominated by one Thomas Ludwell, citizen. We will give the successive names of patrons and rectors in continuation of those recorded in the preceding chapter, and then add some details respecting them.

RECTORS OF ROTHERHITHE.

Patron.	*Name.*
Thomas Ludwell, citizen.	29. Thomas Beede. Inst. 29 October 1562, d. 1571.
The same.	30. Thomas Addy. Inst. 2 June 1571, d. May 1592.
Queen Elizabeth.	31. John Ryder, M.A. Inst. 3 June 1592, resigned 1594.
Edward Wingate, Esq.	32. Ralph Dawson, B.D. Inst. 21 April 1594, d. 1611.

29. Reg. Horne, fol. 6 a.

30. Reg. Horne, fol. 92 b. See also the parish register of Rotherhithe, where he was interred 29 May, 1592. "Burial, 1592. Mr Thomas Addey, parson, the xxixth of May."

31. Reg. Cooper, fol. 23 a. He was the same probably who was also rector of Bermondsey in 1582. In Reg. Cooper, fol. 26 a, it is said that Dawson was instituted on the death of Addy, whereas Addy died in May, 1592, and this very register gives us (fol. 23 a) Ryder in his place. Dawson therefore must have come in now on Ryder's resignation. (See note on Ryder, p. 43.)

32. He was instituted rector of St Mary, Aldchurch, 14 June, 1597 (Newcourt Rep. I. 432), which benefice he held with Rotherhithe until his death.

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Patron.	*Name.*
John Thomas and Richard Dawson.	33. Thomas Gataker, B.D. Inst. 13 Nov. 1611, d. 27 July 1654.

Note.—In 1620 Mr Gataker in the Dedication of his "Sermon on the Benefit of a Good Name" speaks of "my loving Friends and Neighbours Mr Robert Bell and Mr Joshua Downing Joint-Patrones of the Rectorie of Rotherhith." But they had no opportunity of exercising their right.

? (John Thornborough, Jun.)	34. John Goode. Inst. 1654, d. June 1675.
John Thornborough, Jun.	35. George Stoodley, B.A. Inst. 9 Aug. 1675, resigned 1681.
William Strong, citizen.	36. William Baldwin, M.A. Inst. 9 May 1681, d. Mar. 1711.
Humphrey Whadcock.	37. Edward Lovell, D.D. Inst. 28 Aug. 1711, d. 4 April 1735.
Master, Fellows and Scholars of Clare Hall, Cambridge.	38. Thomas Curling, D.D. Inst. 15 Aug. 1735, d. 20 May 1742.
The same.	39. Thomas Negus, D.D. Inst. 30 Sept. 1742, d. 19 Oct. 1765.
The same.	40. Thomas Cockayne, M.A. Inst. 18 Feb. 1766, d. 12 Feb. 1792.

33. See note on p. 44.

34. Parish register of Rotherhithe, where he was interred 30 June, 1675. "Burial, 1675. Mr John Goode, Rector. June 30." He was a different person from the John Goode, B.D. and Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, mentioned by Wood in his *Athenæ Oxon.* II. 818, and who did not die until 26 February following.

35. By demise of this turn from Richard Hurston the true patron (Reg. Morley, Pt. II. p. 11). On 13 Dec. following, Samuel Aldisson, M.A., exhibited his presentation from the King but the Bishop refused to accept it, the living being already full.

36. Par. Reg. and Reg. Morley, 92. He was buried here 30 March, 1711. "William Balwin (Rectr) 30 March."

37. Reg. Trelawney. Reg. Hoadley.

38. Reg. Hoadley. (The advowson of St Mary, Rotherhithe, was acquired by the College by purchase from the Duke of Chandos in 1729.)

39. Reg. Archd. Surrey.

40. Reg. Thomas.

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Canon Beck, Rector of Rotherhithe.

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Patron.	*Name.*
The same.	41. Robert Myddleton, M.A. Inst. 1792, d. 1816.
The same.	42. James Speare. Inst. 1816 but held the benefice only a few months.
The same.	43. J. S. Hewett, M.A. Inst. 1817, d. 1835.
The same.	44. Edward Blick, M.A. Inst. 1835, d. 25 June 1867.
The same.	45. Edward Josselyn Beck, M.A. Inst. Nov. 1867.

41. Reg. Brownlow North.
42. Reg. Tomline.
43. Reg. Tomline.
44. Reg. Sumner.
45. Reg. Sumner.

There have thus been forty-five rectors of Rotherhithe since John de Tocklive was appointed by the Prior and Convent of Bermondsey and instituted by Bishop Woodlock of Winchester in the year of our Lord 1310 till the present incumbent, who is still living in the year 1906, i.e. during an interval of six centuries. This will give an average duration of thirteen years for each rector's incumbency, but many of the rectors only held the benefice for three or four years and some for only a few months; others, however, have been very much longer at their post. The last century saw only three rectors from 1817 to the present time.

Bishop Ryder.

John Ryder or Rider, who was born in Ireland and instituted to the rectory of Rotherhithe on 3 June, 1592, on the presentation of Queen Elizabeth, subsequently rose to high preferment in the Church. He became Archdeacon of Meath, Dean of St Patrick's in Dublin, and Bishop of Killaloe. In 1610 Bishop Ryder published "An Account of the landing

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of the Spaniards in Ireland," also a pamphlet on "The Antiquity of the Protestant Religion," and other tracts, mostly printed in Ireland. He carried on a literary dispute with Henry Fitz-Simon the Jesuit. He was also the author of a Latin Dictionary, the first in which the English-Latin part was printed before the Latin-English. He died 12 November, 1632, and was buried in his cathedral[1].

Note.—Bishop John Ryder must not be confounded with a subsequent Bishop of Killaloe, Henry Rider or Ryder, who is named in Bishop Mant's catalogue as having been born in Paris, and appointed Dean of Clogher.

Bishop Henry Rider was Bishop first of Killaloe, then of Down and Connor, and in 1751, on the death of Archbishop Hort, he was further promoted to be Archbishop of Tuam.

He might very probably have been of the same Irish family as Bishop John Ryder. The record of his death is as follows:—On 7 February, 1775, died Archbishop Rider at the age of 78 years at Nice in France, and there he was interred by his own request on...February in a field purchased for a burying-ground by the Consul, the Reverend W. Campbell, an English clergyman, reading the burial service at the deceased prelate's house and at the grave.

THOMAS GATAKER, B.D., 1611—1654.

If the pre-Reformation rectors of Rotherhithe are for the most part unknown to us except by name as recorded in the episcopal registers of Winton; when we come to the list of rectors after 1537 we shall find abundant materials for sketching the personal characteristics of most of them and in some degree for realizing the work they were able to accomplish in the parish.

This is pre-eminently the case with the very learned and pious Gataker, who succeeded to the benefice in 1611 and remained in charge of the parish for nearly 44 years till his death in July, 1654, and so has a "record" incumbency,

[1] See Sir James Ware's *Hist. and Antiquities of Ireland*, edited by Walter Harris, 1764; and Bp. Mant's *History of the Church of Ireland*.

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which no one of the later rectors of Rotherhithe has ever yet attained to.

We have the advantage of possessing an autobiography of this good man, written in Latin "with his own hand"... "Thomæ Gatakeri vita propriâ manu scripta," prefixed to his Adversaria Miscellanea which forms part of a volume containing his edition of the twelve books of the Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, "de rebus suis."

We have likewise a narrative of his life appended to the "funeral sermon preached at the burial of the Rev. Thomas Gataker in the parish church of Rotherhithe by the Reverend Simeon Ashe."

These, with his own numerous works, enable us to become familiar with the principal events of his life, with his literary and religious characteristics, and with the influence which he exerted far beyond the limits of his own parish in the wider sphere of the University, throughout the realm of England, and even in many parts of the continent of Europe, where the fame of his learning and his piety spread far and wide.

Thomas Gataker or "*Gatacre* (for so he wrote himself, till of later years, to prevent mis-calling occasioned frequently by the view of the letters, he changed into Gataker)" was of an old Shropshire family.

He was the only son of the Reverend Thomas Gatacre, rector of St Edmund the King and Martyr, in Lombard Street, London, who died in 1593[1].

This worthy divine was the younger son of William Gatacre, of Gatacre Hall, Shropshire, where the family had maintained an uninterrupted succession from the time of Edward the Confessor[2]. His parents, who were zealous Roman Catholics, intended him for the law, and he was admitted a student of the Middle Temple about 1553.

John Popham, afterwards Lord Chief Justice, was a fellow-student with him, and became his intimate friend.

Some of Wm. Gatacre's kindred were "high in place," and

[1] See *Dictionary of National Biography*, s. v.

[2] A Gatakerianâ in agro Salopiensi antiquâ Celebrique satis familiâ.—*Vita T. G.*

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while visiting them he was present at the examination of Protestant confessors, whose constancy impressed him in favour of their opinions.

With a view to confirm him in the old faith his parents removed him to the English College at Louvain, at the same time settling on him an estate which brought in £100 a year. Finding him after six months at Louvain strengthened in his Protestantism his father recalled him to England, obtained his consent to the revocation of the settlement, and then cast him off.

Gatacre found friends who provided him with the means of studying for eleven years at Oxford and for four years at Magdalene College, Cambridge. There is no record of his having taken his degree. In 1568 he was ordained deacon and priest by Grindal, Bishop of London, and became domestic chaplain to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. On 21 June, 1572, he was collated to the rectory of St Edmund's, Lombard Street. In addition he was admitted to the vicarage of Christ Church, Newgate Street, on 25 January, 1577, but resigned this preferment in the year following.

Fuller describes him as a "profitable pastor." His Puritan principles are assumed by Brook without much direct evidence. He died in 1593, his successor at St Edmund's being instituted on 2 June in that year. He married Margaret Pigott of a Hertfordshire family[1].

Of such parents was sprung our Thomas Gatacre, who was born 4 September, 1574, first seeing the light in the rectory house of St Edmund, in the heart of the city of London[2].

After passing through a grammar school course his father sent him at the age of sixteen to the University of Cambridge, where he was admitted at St John's College, and there he was elected to a Scholarship, having meanwhile lost

[1] ...Matre Margareta a Pigottorum in agro Hartfordiensi Stirpe minus illustri oriundus....—*Vita T. G.*

[2] Londini natus est pridie nonas Septembris Anno Salutis 1574 in lucem editus in domicilio ad Templum quod Edmundi nomen præfert pertinente, ejusdem Rectori assignato.

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his father; and he remained at St John's College until he had graduated Master of Arts[1].

Thence he migrated in 1596 to the newly-founded College of Sidney Sussex, of which the buildings were at this time in course of erection, having been chosen to be one of the original body of Fellows, being now twenty-two years of age, and he was regarded as "the most distinguished member of the infant Society[2]."

Meanwhile till the College buildings should be completed and ready for occupation Gataker retired into Essex, where he was tutor in the household of William Ayloffe at Braxted, instructing Mr Ayloffe himself in the Hebrew tongue and teaching his eldest son "the humanities."

It fell out that while he was residing in the house of Mr Ayloffe, to whom he was related by blood, a visit was paid to the family by Dr John Stern, Suffragan Bishop (of Colchester) to the Bishop of London. Bishop Stern was present on one occasion while Gataker was expounding the first chapter of St Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, and was so favourably impressed by what he heard that he invited the young tutor to seek Holy Orders, voluntarily promising him all needful assistance thereto. But Gataker entertained so high a sense of the dignity and gravity of the Christian ministry that he modestly thanked the Bishop for his kind offer, and decided to defer the proposed invitation for further consideration. Later on, however, having consulted his old tutor, Mr Henry Alvey, on the matter, and being advised by him not to shrink from the Divine call, he approached the Bishop of Colchester after the lapse of some months and was by him admitted into Holy Orders.

The fabric of his college having been by this time completed, he returned to Cambridge to fulfil the duties of his Fellowship. While in residence at Sidney he devoted himself

[1] In the Admission Book of St John's College, Cambridge, occurs the following entry in the handwriting of Thos Gatacre:

Admissio discipulorum ano Dñi 1591° Novebr. 9.

Ego Thomas Gatacre Londinensis admissus sum discipulus pro Domina fundatrice.

[2] *History of Sidney Sussex College*, by G. M. Edwards, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of the College, 1899, p. 44.

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to tutorial work; among his pupils were John Hoile and Thomas Pell, both of whom subsequently became Fellows of the Society.

At this period several earnest young clergymen, among whom were Abdias Ashton of St John's College and William Bedell of Emmanuel, fired with zeal for the promotion of true religion in some of the neighbouring villages, and indeed in some parishes more remote from Cambridge, invited Gataker to take part in their Evangelistic work, especially where there was a dearth of pastors.

In the village of Everton, on the boundary of the three counties of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, where the vicar was a decrepit old man believed to be nearly 130 years of age, they were welcomed by a resident gentleman, Mr Roger Burgon, or Burgoin (Burgoyne), and week by week Gataker preached the Word of God there for the space of half a year; until Mr Ashton introduced him to the family of Mr William Cook, then living in London, and he took up his abode there. While with Mr Cook it happened that the office of preacher to the Society of Lincoln's Inn became vacant, and some members of the Inn who had heard Gataker preach in several places, invited him to undertake their preachership, Sir John Popham, by this time President of the Court of King's Bench, using his influence to persuade him to accept the offer. While Gataker hesitated to take this fresh burden upon his shoulders, the Master of Sidney, Mr Montagu, urged his acceptance of the office, and so he became preacher of Lincoln's Inn, and discharged the duties of the office to the great satisfaction of the Society for a period of ten years[1]; during which time he spent his vacations in the county of Northamptonshire with the family of Sir William Cook, whose wife was related to him by blood.

In the year 1611 the Rectory of Rotherhithe became vacant by the death of the incumbent, and he was strongly urged by the more prudent part of the inhabitants to undertake the charge of their parish. Accordingly he bade farewell

[1] It was during his tenure of the preachership that he wrote his well-known treatise on the Nature and Use of Lots.

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to his old friends of Lincoln's Inn, and migrated to his final sphere of pastoral labour and became rector of Rotherhithe.

He was somewhat feeble in bodily health and subject to attacks of colic and tertian fever. Nevertheless he devoted himself with great energy to the care of his new flock, who responded gratefully to his efforts for their spiritual advancement. His sermons were both earnest and learned, and full of the best practical theology. He held on Fridays in the evening at his house a class of younger parishioners of the families resident in the place, so that he gradually trained a body of young men well qualified to profit by his instructions, and he prepared for their use a catechism. Mr Gataker was thus a pioneer of the institution of Sunday Schools.

In this, however, he had been forestalled by the family of Farrer of the community of Little Gidding (see *Two Lives of Nicolas Farrer*, J. E. B. Mayor, I. 30, II. 234, 5), who were wont to assemble from neighbouring villages every Sunday what they called the "psalm children" in classes for instruction, catechising, and repeating psalms.

Nor were the poorer class of children neglected by this good rector, for it was no doubt owing to his influence and advice that his worthy friend Mr Robert Bell, in conjunction with Peter Hills, founded in 1613 the ancient free school of Rotherhithe, "to the intent that an able and sufficient schoolmaster should freely teach eight scholars being the children of seafaring men of the parish of Rederiffe[1]." This admirable institution survives to the present day, being incorporated with later foundations of a like character, and it is now a flourishing school of 200 boys doing a most valuable work for the rising generation of our parish. But Gataker's pastoral duties did not hinder him from undertaking wider responsibilities; for in 1643 he was called by the Parliament to sit as one of the Assembly of Divines who met at Westminster and took part in the discussions of that body on the doctrine of justification and other theological subjects, and although he was strongly in favour of episcopacy he signed

[1] For the further history of this and the other schools of Rotherhithe see below, p. 57.

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the covenant in obedience to the sense of the majority of his brethren.

In 1645 on the removal of Dr Comber from the Mastership of Trinity College in the University of Cambridge the Earl of Manchester had so high an opinion of the learning and character of Mr Gataker that he offered this post of dignity to him, and although his infirm health and characteristic modesty did not permit him to accept it, no greater testimony to his worth and eminence could have been given to him than in his selection to fill so high a position as Master of Trinity.

In 1648 he was the first of the forty-seven ministers who signed a remonstrance to the army and the General against the design of trying the king; and both in private and in the pulpit he spoke against the prevailing tenets of the Independents.

In 1653 he had a dispute with Lilly the astrologer[1].

He was a sufferer by the violence of the times; yet when his parishioners refused to pay him the composition which they had agreed to in lieu of the tithes, he bore the disappointment with patience, and turned his attention to literary pursuits.

He published Commentaries on the Prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah and on the Lamentations.

Then he edited the works of the Emperor M. Antoninus, illustrated with a commentary of great learning, and likewise prefixed to it his "Cinnus" or body of Adversaria. He also wrote a treatise on the sacred name, *The Tetragrammaton*.

While thus employed he still from time to time ministered the sacraments and occupied his pulpit, although at the imminent risk of his life, on one occasion bursting a blood-vessel while preaching.

He had now reached his eightieth year, and on July 9, 1654, he was seized with a mortal illness.

Gataker was four times married:—

(1) "Not long before he left Lincoln's Inn he married the widow of Mr Wm Cupper, to whose two daughters he was most kind, educating them and marrying them to two divines of note. His first wife died in child-bed of a son that bore

[1] See Lilly's *Life*, 1774, p. 119 sq.

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his father's name," who after distant voyages returned home and died in peace.

(2) He next married "the daughter of a reverend divine, Mr Charles Pinner, who was then brought up in the worthy and religious family of Mr Ellis Crisp, brother to Mrs Pinner. It pleased God to give him a sonne by her (Charles), but immediately to take away the mother, so that the mother's funeral and the child's baptism were celebrated together."

(3) His third wife was "a gentlewoman of a very considerable family, being sister to Sir George and Sir John Farwell. By her he had three children, whereof a sonne and a daughter were carried to the grave before their mother, but the third yet lives to walk by the light of her father's life and doctrine. This gentlewoman being of a contemplative minde fell into a consumption, which wasted the body so that the soul took flight from thence to heaven."

(4) "Last of all he took to wife a citizen's widow, whose comfortable conversation he enjoyed 24 years, but without issue by her.

"The love to her was one motive why he retreated out of his parsonage house to another habitation of his own revenue: for supposing that she might be the survivor, he would make a convenient provision for her, that she might not be subject to another's curtesie for removal. Her he survived two years within a few days.

"In July, 1620, he went for a month to the United Provinces and to Belgium. His companions were his entire friend Captain Joshua Downing and an old acquaintance Mr Roger Hughes (his *Mnason* whose house he used frequently in London) and a nephew, a young student. His mother was at this time still alive.

"We may mention several persons of note that had been his assistants at Rotherhithe. Mr Young, Mr Goodal (minister at Horton by Colebrook), Mr Symonds (who turned aside to ways of separation), Mr Grayle, and others yet living labourers in God's vineyard.

"Of foreigners that sojourned with him these were some. M. Thylein (after a revered pastor of the Dutch church

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in London, whose sonne was brought by his mother but a fortnight afore Mr Gataker's decease, intreating the same good office for him which the father had with much comfort enjoyed), M. Peters, M. And. Demetrius, M. Hornbeck, M. Rich, M. Sverd, M. Wittefrungel, M. Severinus Benzen, M. George Deillay, D. Treschovius.

"Such was his hospitality to strangers; his condescension to children (he visited the Tonbridge School with the Skinners' Company); his piety in repairing weekly to some lecture in London; his free contribution upon divers occasions to the maintaining of the Lord's house of prayer; his modesty in refusing honourable offers (as when he declined being chaplain to the hopeful Prince Henry); his large charity to the poor, in redemption of captives, relief of poor Protestants, and bequeathing £50 to the poor of Redrith in his last will[1]."

We may add to this eulogium his mindfulness that he was in Holy Orders of the persecuted Church of England. All through these troublous times, while living on friendly and brotherly terms with the Presbyterian ministers, he spoke up manfully for the primitive episcopacy, through which he had himself received his title and ordination to the priesthood[2].

It was the happiness of Rotherhithe that it had a priest for its rector to proclaim the everlasting Gospel and to minister the sacraments to its people throughout the Puritan era.

Of his friends and neighbours in adjoining parishes we know that the rector of Bermondsey from 1624[3] to 1644 was Dr Thomas Paske, Fellow and Master of Clare Hall, in the University of Cambridge, whom he must have known, and with whom he could scarcely have been on other than brotherly terms.

The rector of Bermondsey from 1644 to 1654 was Jeremiah Whitaker, who was a member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines, and would naturally be in close and friendly relations with Gataker. The two died in the same year, 1654.

[1] This gift is still distributed.

[2] He speaks of his godmother who presented him at "the Sacred Laver."

[3] The rector of Bermondsey, 1603—1624, was Edward Elton, an austere Puritan and a learned divine. Dr Paske was ejected in 1644.

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No monument has ever been erected to the memory of this truly excellent man. It is believed that he himself desired that none should be erected. But the biographical notice here given at somewhat greater length than some readers may think called for may supply the want of a memorial. Indeed, his learned works are an imperishable memorial of him.

The present writer had some years since the opportunity of naming a street on the rector's glebe after his most distinguished predecessor, and "Gataker Street" will preserve his name to future generations.

JOHN GOODE.

On the death of Mr Gataker the Reverend John Goode was appointed. His institution is recorded in the year 1654, and he died in June, 1675. Nothing further is known of Mr Goode. The patron of the benefice was at this time Mr John Thornborough, Junior. But in 1620 Mr Gataker, in the dedication of his sermon on the benefit of a good name, speaks of "My loving Friends and Neighbours Mr Robert Bell and Mr Joshua Downing Joint Patrones of the Rectorie of Rotherhith."

No doubt Robert Bell and Joshua Downing purchased the advowson in order to secure the appointment of a Puritan rector in the event of Mr Gataker's death, but he outlived his friend Robert Bell and the patronage had passed into other hands.

DR LOVELL, RECTOR 1711—1735.

It was during Dr Lovell's incumbency that the parish church was rebuilt on the site of the mediæval church which had served for 400 years. The old tower continued to stand, and it contained a peal of six bells. Temporary repairs were carried out in the summer of 1718. It may be interesting to note that at this time the Rev. Dr George Stanhope, Dean of Canterbury, was rector of the adjoining parish of Deptford.

DR CURLING.

The advowson of St Mary, Rotherhithe, passed into the hands of the Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Clare Hall

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in the University of Cambridge. They purchased it from the Duke of Chandos, who had become the patron of the benefice[1].

The college exercised their right of presentation for the first time on the death of Dr Lovell, and they appointed the Reverend Thomas Curling, D.D.[2], one of the senior Fellows of the foundation. He was instituted on Aug. 15, 1735, and died May 20, 1742.

Dr Curling was born at Ramsgate in Kent, but his family was long connected with this part of South London, residing in a mansion in Jamaica Road, Bermondsey. The Reverend William Curling, a collateral descendant of Dr Curling, was for many years one of the two chaplains of St Saviour's, Southwark[3]. The old family residence of the Curlings was pulled down some years since, and Palmerston Terrace with Martin Street in the rear occupy the site of the gardens. A few of the old trees are still standing in the forecourts of Palmerston Terrace.

THOMAS NEGUS, D.D.

The second of the Clare rectors, Dr Thomas Negus, was like his predecessor a senior Fellow of the college. He was born at Shelton in Bedfordshire and was married at Rotherhithe parish church to Sarah Margaretta Jones by the Bishop of Man. She was a Welsh lady, and survived her husband; leaving by her will, dated April 22, 1784, the sum of £2700 3 per cent. consolidated annuities to provide Bibles, New Testaments, Common Prayer-books especially for the aged poor of Rotherhithe requiring large-type books, and likewise for the education of poor children[4]. This excellent charity

[1] The college was enabled to make this purchase out of a large sum of money bequeathed by the Reverend Dr Blythe, who was Master of Clare from 1678 to 1713, and left everything he possessed to the college.—*College Order Book.*

[2] Dr Goddard (in the *College Register*) calls him "a right good scholar and a very worthy man."

[3] Mr William Curling, a member of this family, was treasurer of the Charity School in 1807 and gave £50 to the fund for rebuilding the school.

[4] Dr Negus, at his death in 1765, left £20 to the rebuilding of the Charity School. He is described by Dr Goddard as "a truly conscientious man, of primæval Piety and Simplicity, and an excellent Parish Priest."

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is still administered by the trustees to whom she bequeathed it, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and it is known as "Mrs Negus' Charity."

This charitable lady likewise bequeathed a corresponding benefaction for Wales, which is called "Mrs Negus' Welsh Charity." It was also during Dr Negus' incumbency that another charitable lady, Mrs Hannah Bayly, by her will dated Feb. 22, 1756, created a trust for poor widows of St Mary, Rotherhithe, which is administered by her trustees, and is known as "Mrs Bayly's Charity." This was the age of charitable bequests for Rotherhithe.

Thomas Cockayne, M.A.

This was the third rector presented by the college, and he was likewise one of the Fellows of Clare. He was born at Dovebridge in Derbyshire. During his incumbency the site of the old Rectory House and garden was purchased by the parishioners and added to the Churchyard. Eventually the new Rectory was built on the present site.

Robert Myddleton, M.A.

The fourth Clare rector, and like the rest a Fellow, succeeded in the closing decade of the 18th century. He was born at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. It was during his incumbency that the Rotherhithe Sunday Schools were established in 1798, and they have proved an inestimable blessing to successive generations of Rotherhithe children. We shall be able in a subsequent chapter to record their history at length, but it is to the honour of this good man that he encouraged the first founder of the Rotherhithe Sunday School, a worthy Nonconformist named Thomas Cranfield, and adopted his humble effort, making it one of the permanent institutions of the parish church. Mr Myddleton eventually became D.D., and in his time, early in the 19th century, the beadle's staff, with its handsome silver-gilt image of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding in her arms the Holy Child, was provided by the churchwardens.

No outcry against Popish innovations appears to have been raised on this occasion, nor at the painted glass window

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representing the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into heaven, which was placed in the chancel about the same period. Rotherhithe church-folk of that day honoured their parish church and its patron saint without incurring any suspicion of "leaning towards Rome." These party-cries were reserved for a later period of the 19th century when, as was supposed, Christians had become more enlightened. One thing is too sadly true, they were far more rancorous.

James Speare and John Short Hewett.

The Reverend James Speare, another Fellow of Clare, succeeded on the death of Dr Myddleton, but he held the benefice but a brief space[1], and was followed by the Rev. J. S. Hewett, M.A.

Mr Hewett's incumbency was an unhappy one. It is generally believed that he became involved in money difficulties. Certainly he was seldom resident in Rotherhithe. The parish was left in charge of a curate, an estimable man, the Rev. Dr Thomas Hardwicke, who lived in the rectory house, and was well liked by the inhabitants. But naturally he could not exercise the same influence as if he had been actually rector. On Mr Hewett's death he was succeeded, in 1835, by a resident rector, who in a few months' time made himself felt as a power in the parish such as no rector since Thomas Gataker, nearly 200 years before, had ever been.

Edward Blick.

The Reverend Edward Blick, M.A., Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, was instituted in 1835 and at once came into residence. He was a native of Sutton Coldfield in Warwickshire but was brought up at Tamworth, in Staffordshire, his father being the vicar of Tamworth and headmaster of Tamworth grammar school. Mr Blick's brother was Fellow and Bursar of St John's College, Cambridge, and he himself was a man of strong purpose and well-trained intellect. He had for some years before he actually became rector of

[1] It is believed that Mr Speare took Rotherhithe hoping to be married, but that the lady on being brought by him to see the place declined to make her home in Rotherhithe, and Mr Speare, to please her, took another Clare living, and became rector of Elmsett, a village in the county of Suffolk.

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The Reverend Edward Blick, formerly Rector of Rotherhithe, 1835 1867.

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Rotherhithe entertained the hope and presentiment that this parish would one day be his ministerial charge, and it is believed that he had already mapped out in his own mind the plan of action which he was prepared to carry out when actually in a position to do so. We happily possess a statement which he drew up and circulated in the year 1848, after he had completed 13 years of strenuous work. It was published, he tells us, "with the hope of communicating useful and interesting information to the inhabitants of Rotherhithe, and also of inducing both them and others to assist in carrying on with efficiency the various institutions and charities that have been commenced."

"On the 11th of April, 1835," when Mr Blick "came into residence, there was only one church in the parish. That church had sittings for about a thousand persons, the population being nearly 13,000." When he died, on June 25, 1867, he left behind him three new parish churches beside the chapel-of-ease (St Paul's) for the lower end of the mother church district.

"For the instruction of the young there were two school-rooms. The one in Church Street for 150 boys, with a house of residence for the master, in which also 50 girls were taught. This was commonly called the Charity School. The other in Trinity Street for 50 boys who received education free of expense. This was the United Society School.

"There was also another school called the School of Industry, and connected therewith a boys' and girls' Sunday school; but these schools possessed no buildings of their own and had to meet in hired rooms in various parts of the parish." During Mr Blick's incumbency the following school buildings were erected: (1) St Mary's National School in Deptford Road for boys, girls, and infants, erected in 1836 and enlarged in 1865; (2) Trinity Church Schools for boys, girls, and infants, erected in 1836; (3) Christ Church Schools in Prospect Place, then called "Rose and Rummer Lane," for girls and infants, erected in 1842; (4) two school-rooms for the School of Industry, erected in Clarence Street in 1846; and (5) St Paul's Infant School room, then called the Surrey

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Canal School, erected in 1847 in Ram Alley, now known as St Paul's Lane. This school-room was built to meet the needs of the isolated district beyond the Surrey Canal, in order that younger children might not have to be sent over the Canal Bridge and along the narrow street to the up-town schools.

When we look back upon this record of 32 years' work in building churches and schools it appears almost incredible that it could have been due to the energy of one man. Yet to one man, one single-hearted clergyman, Edward Blick, Rotherhithe is indebted for this priceless legacy which he was able to bequeath to his parish when he laid down his charge with his life at midsummer 1867.

He was indeed nobly backed up by his people, and by Sir William Maynard Gomm, the lord of the manor of Rotherhithe; but the inspiration, the inception, the carrying through of every one of these projects was due to the rector. In his study, on his knees in prayer to God, and by devoted and persevering toil the work was done, and when the population had doubled itself in three decades from 13,000 to 26,000 it had been provided with church and school accommodation in a way unparalleled in any other parish of South London.

He was able in 1848 to sum up the money value of his buildings as follows:

	£	s.	d.
The three new churches have been built and consecrated at an expense of.....	13,525	0	0
The ten new school-rooms with two class-rooms and residences for three masters or mistresses have cost	5,965	0	0
Trinity Church is endowed with £150 a year; Christ Church with £67 a year; All Saints Church with £150 a year. Total endowment £367 per annum. These endowments may be valued reckoning at 3½ per cent. at	11,292	0	0
Trinity Parsonage has cost upwards of	1,100	0	0
The total value of the improvements has been ...	£31,382	0	0

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Edward Black

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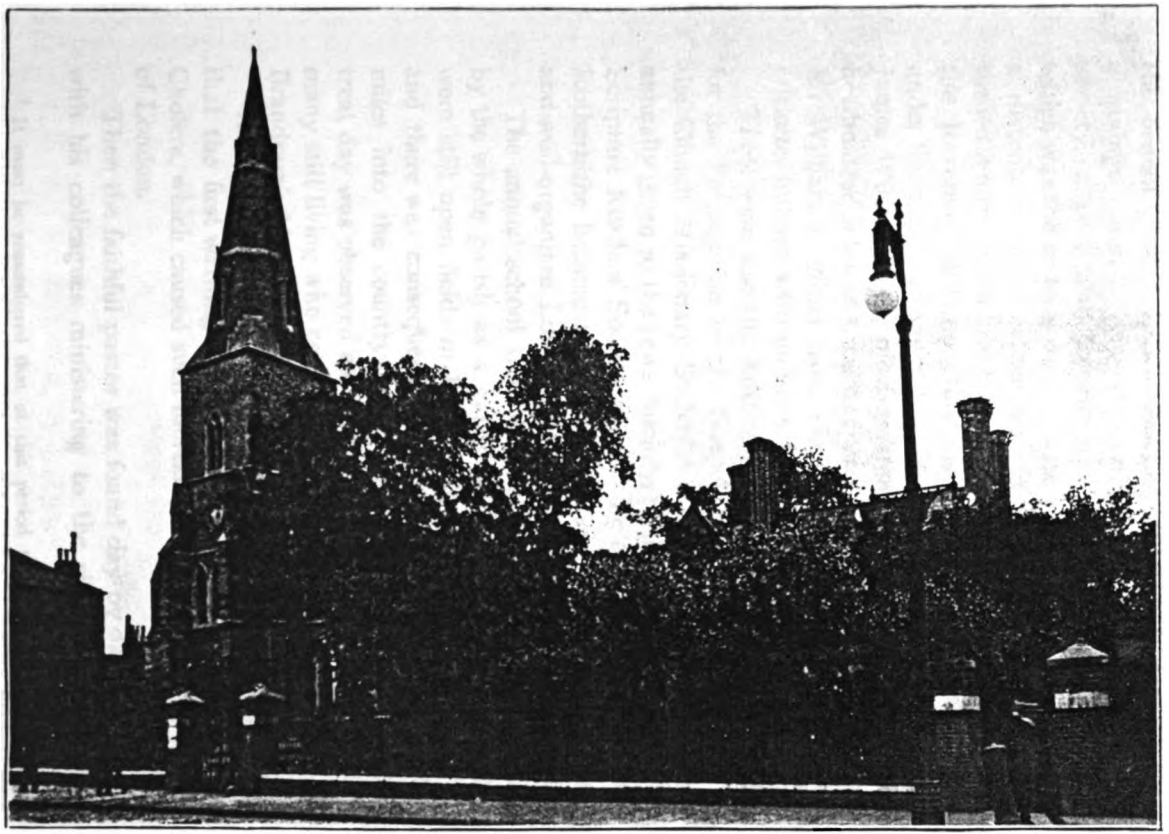

All Saints' Church and Vicarage, Rotherhithe.

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There were also set on foot many other institutions for the benefit of the parishioners. A district visiting society, a savings bank, a lying-in charity, a medical benevolent society, a parochial library, and also a grammar school[1] which was the rector's own private venture. He bought out a dissenting chapel which was in financial difficulties and turned it into a school for boys of an upper class, at first under the Reverend William Hutchinson and later on placing it under the charge of one of his assistant curates, the Reverend James Wilson, M.A., of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as headmaster, who was assisted and eventually succeeded by Mr William Marillier from Harrow School, an athlete and cricketer imbued with public school traditions.

There were also the Rotherhithe branches of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts and of the Church Missionary Society. And support was likewise annually given to the Jews' Society, to the Church of England Scripture Readers' Society and to the London City Mission. Rotherhithe became known far and wide as a well-equipped and well-organized London parish guided by a master-mind.

The annual school treat was an event looked forward to by the whole parish as a gala-day, and in times when there were still open fields in Rotherhithe for children to play in and there was consequently no need to take the schools for miles into the country for a yearly excursion, the school treat day was observed as a universal holiday, and there are many still living who could tell of those happy gatherings in Brandram's Meadow and Torr's Field and elsewhere.

It was on the occasion of one of these yearly school treats that the first warning was given of the terrible visitation of Cholera, which caused such mortality here and in other parts of London.

Then the faithful pastor was found day by day at his post with his colleagues ministering to the sick and dying and

[1] It must be remembered that at this period the splendid foundation of St Olave's Grammar School was only available for boys whose parents were parishioners of St Olave, Southwark, and St John, Horsleydown. The opening of this school to outsiders, as at present, is the work of a subsequent date.

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became more than ever endeared to his flock, so sorely stricken with the dire disease.

The latter years of Mr Blick's life were overshadowed with failing health; but though obliged at one period to be drawn about the parish in a bath-chair he never ceased to visit his beloved schools and to care for their interests. He was extremely averse to all proposals to have his portrait painted, and indeed it was without his own knowledge that a sketch was eventually taken of him as he sat at his study writing-table. This sketch was developed into an oil painting, which long afterwards was given by his family to the present rector and by him placed in the Town Hall. It now adorns the walls of the Public Library, and reminds those who see it of the strongly marked features of this good old man who lived and died in the service of his God and Saviour and for the good of his flock.

He lies buried at the east end of the parish church yard beneath a stone slab with a raised cross extending along its length.

The people and school-children who crowded the church at his funeral erected another memorial of their departed friend and rector. By the principal door of the church was erected a lofty monument of Gothic design with suitable inscriptions; while within the church itself a stone font was placed to his memory which the present rector solemnly dedicated on Whitsunday 1868 for the due ministration of the sacrament of holy baptism. The only provision for baptisms up to this date had been a metal basin placed when required upon the altar-rail.

Mr Blick brought as a bride to Rotherhithe the faithful wife who shared his joys and sorrows all through his time here, and outlived him several years. She was Miss Louisa Hutchinson of Lichfield, and her brother, the Reverend William Hutchinson, M.A., was Mr Blick's first curate and shortly afterwards became the first incumbent of Holy Trinity Church in 1838. Mrs Blick's sister, Miss Sarah Hutchinson, made her home for some years at Rotherhithe and devoted herself to the work of a district visitor and Sunday School

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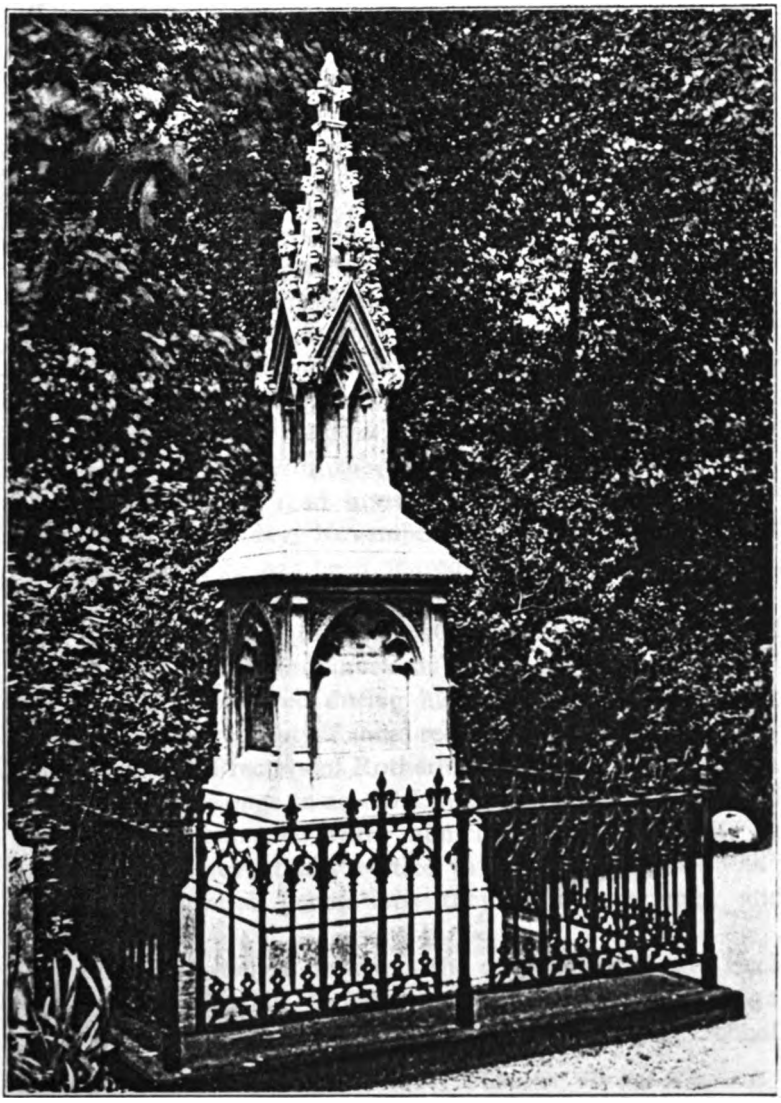

Memorial to the Reverend Edward Blick near the South Entrance to Rotherhithe Parish Church.

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teacher, both at Trinity Church and afterwards at St Paul's Chapel.

The Rev. W. Hutchinson still survives; he is the vicar of Blurton near Stoke-upon-Trent, and although over 96 years of age continues to take some part in the Sunday services of his church.

Edward Josselyn Beck.

The Reverend Edward Josselyn Beck, M.A., Fellow and Dean of Clare College, Cambridge, was appointed to succeed Mr Blick, and was instituted by the Bishop of Winchester (Dr Richard Charles Sumner) on Wednesday, November 6, 1867. On the following Friday, November 8, he was inducted by the Reverend John Bowstead, M.A., Rector of St Olave's and Rural Dean of Southwark, in the presence of a large congregation and with the traditional ceremonial used in Rotherhithe. He "read himself in" and preached for the first time on Sunday, November 10, and so commenced a ministry which he has been spared by God's great goodness to exercise now for thirty-eight years.

It is not an easy task for the present writer to speak of his own work, but inasmuch as many events of historical interest have occurred during his tenure of the benefice, it would be false modesty if some record were not made to complete the roll of rectors of Rotherhithe up to the present date.

Mr Beck belongs to an old Lincolnshire family, for several generations connected with municipal life in the city of Lincoln[1]: but eventually settled in the county of Suffolk[2], where for several generations they were clergymen and medical men.

Edward Josselyn Beck was the only son of Henry Beck of Needham Market, Suffolk, and was born June 27, 1832. He was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School,

[1] John Becke was twice mayor of the city of Lincoln. He died 1620.

[2] John Beck was for 54 years rector of Worlingworth, Suffolk; his son, Edward Beck, was in Holy Orders; Edward Beck was a surgeon at Coddenham; Edward Bigsby Beck, a surgeon at Needham Market and Creeting St Mary; Dr Edward Beck, a physician at Ipswich; Henry Beck, surgeon at Needham Market.

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Ipswich (1844—1851), under the excellent headmastership of the Reverend John Fenwick, B.D., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, ninth Wrangler in the Tripos of 1842; and for the last year of his school life under the Reverend Stephen Jordan Rigaud, D.D., Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, and second master of Westminster School, who succeeded Mr Fenwick as headmaster of Ipswich School in 1850; so that he had the great advantage of the best mathematical and classical training from these two headmasters respectively distinguished as first-class men in their Universities.

In October, 1851, Mr Beck proceeded to the University of Cambridge and was entered at Clare Hall where Dr Webb was Master of the college and Mr Atkinson was college tutor. In December, 1851, he was elected to a classical scholarship, and in 1855 graduated B.A. as a Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos; in March, 1855, he passed the Classical Examination and was placed first in the second class of the Classical Tripos. Almost immediately after these examinations he engaged in scholastic work and devoted his leisure hours to the study of theology in preparation for Holy Orders. In December, 1855, he was elected to a Fellowship at Clare and after his admission resided in college and passed the Voluntary Theological Examination and was ordained deacon on Trinity Sunday, 1856, on his Fellowship title by the Bishop of Ely (Dr Turton) in Ely Cathedral.

There was at this time no opening for work in the college, and Mr Beck was anxious to learn the work of a parochial clergyman in a London parish. Accordingly in October, 1856, he became curate of Christ Church, Albany Street, Regent's Park, under the Rev. Henry William Burrows, B.D., who had at that time charge of that large and important parish which in 1851 had been thrown into a state of distress and disorganization by the secession of its pastor, the Rev. William Dodsworth, to the Church of Rome.

From Mr Burrows, his true and faithful friend and guide, Mr Beck learned everything that a parish priest should know. In 1857 he was ordained priest in St Paul's Cathedral by

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The Rev. Edward Josselyn Beck, M.A., Rector of Rotherhithe.

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Bishop Tait, then Bishop of London (subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury), and he remained as one of the assistant curates of Christ Church, St Pancras, for four happy years, working in the church schools and labouring in one of the districts which included Cumberland Haymarket, Clarence Street, and other poor streets adjoining.

In October, 1860, the Master of Clare (who was then the Reverend Edward Atkinson, D.D., having succeeded Dr Webb in January, 1856) summoned Mr Beck to go back into residence and to undertake the office of Dean, which had just become vacant by the appointment of the Rev. F. P. Dusantoy to a college living. Mr Beck continued to reside in Cambridge from this time onward till January, 1865, engaging in College and University work. The institution of a voluntary choir for the college chapel was the work of his first October term, the chapel services having up to that time been celebrated without any musical accompaniment. Mr Beck took his share in the college examinations and in University work.

In October, 1863, he was Junior Proctor of the University, and in that capacity joined in the presentation at Marlborough House of an address to the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of their marriage.

Mr Beck gave up the office of Dean of Clare on his marriage in January, 1865, but he continued to be a Fellow for several years longer. In November, 1866, he was appointed by the college to the vicarage of Litlington in Cambridgeshire, and here he expected to pass some years in the duties of a country parish priest; but in the summer of 1867 the death of Mr Blick occurred, and after the Senior Fellows had one after another declined the offer of the rectory of Rotherhithe it came down to Mr Beck, who after some anxious deliberation decided that it was his duty to accept the charge, and he came into residence at the beginning of November, 1867. The rectory house was at first quite untenantable, and for the first winter he found a home in the house in Union Road, formerly occupied by Captain Robert Stranack, and at that time in the occupation of his widowed

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daughter, Mrs Tyacke. The cordial reception which he received from all the parishioners on his coming here, a comparatively young clergyman, to succeed so venerable and experienced a pastor as Mr Blick will be ever gratefully remembered by him. The two churchwardens that year were Mr W. J. Blake and Mr James Hurd. The curates were the Rev. James Moore, M.A., and the Rev. Ambrose Morris, who was still only in deacon's orders. Both of these good men remained as colleagues with the new rector.

The gathering which thronged the parish church at his induction was most encouraging. The vestry clerks were Mr Robert Shafto Hawks and Mr James J. Stokes, then resident in Paradise Street. After the church bell had been tolled and the new rector had demanded admission by knocking at the church door and exhibiting his mandate from the Bishop, he was conducted up the middle aisle and placed within the sanctuary rails, and subsequently in the reading-desk and pulpit, adjourning to the vestry for the necessary signatures to be appended to the official documents. A sod of the churchyard had to be turned to claim the rector's freehold, and then amid the pealing of the bells the congregation dispersed, to meet again on Sunday morning, when the actual commencement of his ministry was inaugurated with what is called the "reading in," and in place of a sermon the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion were solemnly read through at Morning and Evening Service, that the people might know what doctrine their new pastor was pledged to preach and to teach. It was a deeply impressive scene that met the rector's eyes as he stood in the old church, then arranged as it had been for many years before: the large square pews with high doors, the deep galleries running round three sides of the church, and the children of the Charity School occupying two small galleries on either side of the organ, almost touching the ceiling of the church. The reading-desk and clerk's desk and the pulpit—a gigantic structure commonly designated "a three-decker"—occupied a prominent position facing the organ, and completely hiding from view the holy table, which stood in a small space with

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The Rectory, Rotherhithe, with School-House adjoining. Garden front.

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a large pew flanking it on either side. But the vast congregation which filled the church, the Sunday Schools in either gallery and overflowing into the chancel at the foot of the pulpit steps, the voices of the choir of men and boys in the organ gallery singing the hymns and canticles, and led by the strains of the noble old organ, which was well and reverently played by the organist, Miss Nottingham; all this with the magnificent display of the altar plate set out on the Lord's Table for the celebration of the Holy Sacrament combined to constitute a Divine service most impressive to those who took part in it. A few still survive who were present that Sunday, but the greater part have long since been called away....Captain John Stranack and his family, Captain Phillips and his family, Mr and Mrs Daniel Serle, Mr Robert Newham and his family, Mr and Mrs Edward Talbot, Mr and Mrs Dannell, Mr and Mrs James Arnold, and many another, Standfasts, Archers, Bulmers, Challoners, Batts, Lulhams,.....

Ebenezer Bradshaw was parish clerk, James Hambrook was church beadle, and William Kitchin was steeple keeper. Mrs Hannah Kibett Small was sexton, and four pew-openers presided over the aisles and galleries. It was a small army of officials, for the abolition of church rates had only the year before been completed by Mr Gladstone, and its effect had not yet been fully felt in crippling the finances of the church. Everything was at that time provided on a liberal, even on a lavish, scale. The bell-ringers had no cause to complain or to stint their ringing. The white ensign floated proudly on the steeple and never became ragged and torn before another was bought to take its place. The monthly church collections, being free from the necessity of providing for the church expenses, were devoted to the support of the schools and charities of the parish and for home and foreign missions as well as for the relief of the sick and poor; and gold and silver were freely given at the church doors, where the churchwardens and sidesmen held the plates, and would have looked askance at the copper coins which now form the staple of the weekly

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collections. We do not forget that the present congregation is far less able to contribute than those who were the resident parishioners in 1867; and the other churches which now quite naturally draw the church people who live in Union Road, in the Lower Road, in Plough Road, and in the streets on the other side of Southwark Park, where there were then market gardens and rope grounds, have left the old mother church almost derelict, surrounded no longer by streets of houses, but by wharves, mills, granaries, and high buildings, with scarcely an inhabited house near it, like a stranded hulk left high and dry on the silent shore.

The fate of old city churches is in some respects a sad one. They possess the furniture and fittings and altar plate of a by-gone age, but their congregations have migrated to other homes, and St Mary's Church, Rotherhithe, if not quite so forlorn as St Nicholas', Deptford, is yet out of the main stream of life to-day. On week-days it is shaken by the vibrations of an endless procession of timber vans and other heavy traffic; but on Sundays the neighbourhood is so quiet that you might think St Marychurch Street and Rotherhithe Street a deserted thoroughfare. "Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis." Nevertheless the church remains as a witness for God and Christianity; and it is the sole witness; for no other religious body exists in the mother church district, no other Christian denomination has any chapel, or meeting-place, or Sunday School, except the old parish church and St Paul's Chapel-of-ease nearly a mile lower down the river side.

The difficulties which the present rector found himself face to face with were not a few. First of all he had to build a new church in Plough Road, where a new town of respectable streets had sprung up without any church near them. Mr Blick had happily secured a site for a church on the Ram estate, and on that site St Barnabas' Church was built; but first the money had to be gathered before the work could be put in hand. Mr Charles Churchill, the well-known timber broker and one of the directors of the Surrey Commercial Docks, consented to act as joint-treasurer with the rector, and

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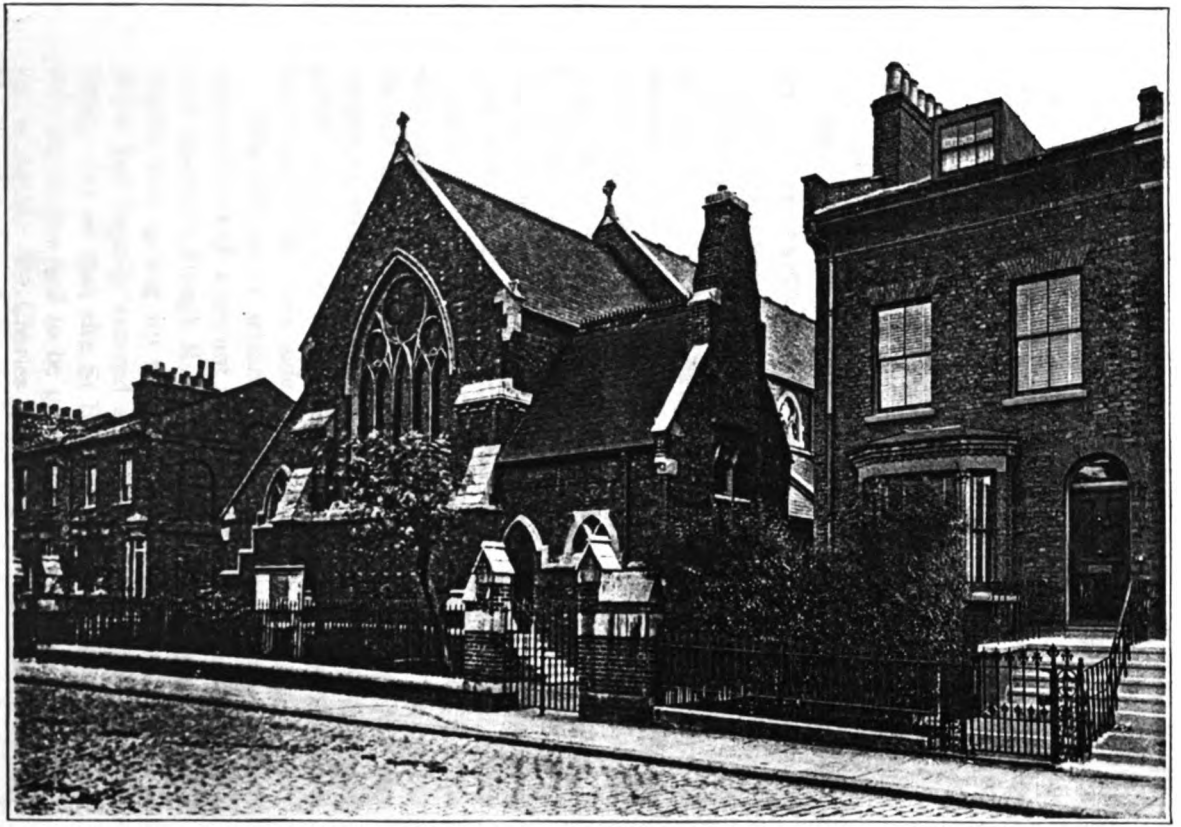

St Barnabas' Church and Vicarage, Plough Road, Rotherhithe.

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himself contributed generously to the fund. An appeal was circulated, and many kind friends came forward to become subscribers. Field-Marshal Sir William Maynard Gomm, G.C.B., the lord of the manor of Rotherhithe, was a most munificent contributor, as were others who had interests in Rotherhithe.

Plans and specifications were prepared by the eminent church architect Mr Wm. Butterfield, F.S.A., who although a builder of magnificent churches and costly colleges, was willing to design for Rotherhithe a church dignified and beautiful but of materials so inexpensive that it might be possible to bring the cost within the slender means at the disposal of the building committee.

The foundation stone was laid on St Barnabas' Day, June 11, 1870, with befitting ceremonial. The procession started from the mother church after a short service. The clergy and choir walked down the Lower Road preceded by a guard of honour of the Rotherhithe Volunteers with their band playing, and their honorary colonel, Sir Wm. Gomm, brought up the rear. The patrons of the benefice were represented by several Fellows of Clare and by the Clare boat flag borne aloft by the captain of the college boat club. The stone was well and truly laid by Sir Wm. Gomm, but two years elapsed before the church was completed and consecrated by Bishop Wilberforce on St Barnabas' Day, 1872.

Thus one more district church was added to the three existing ones, Holy Trinity, Christ Church, and All Saints'. An ecclesiastical district was assigned to it by Order in Council, and a population of 1500 from St Mary's and about 2500 from All Saints' parish was thus provided for, and the curate-in-charge, the Rev. Robert Russell, M.A., became in due course the first vicar of St Barnabas'. The Gomm Schools were erected in 1873; and eventually a vicarage house adjoining the church was provided for the residence of the clergyman, and a modest endowment secured for his maintenance.

As soon as the new parish was thus equipped, the rector was left free to turn his attention to the mother church which,

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though well adapted for the old order of things when large family-pews were in vogue, was certainly not suited to the changed circumstances when so many of the old parishioners had died or removed to homes in more attractive localities.

But meanwhile the venerable lord of the manor, the rector's staunch friend and supporter, had died full of years, aged 91, and honoured by numerous marks of his sovereign's regard, having been made Constable of the Tower; and at his funeral representatives of the Queen and of the Prince and Princess of Wales were present.

Lady Gomm, in her widowhood, was scarcely in a position to be approached for aid in the contemplated improvements to the old parish church, although eventually she gave substantial help. However, a meeting of the parishioners was convened to consider the question, and it was resolved that steps should be taken to rearrange the seats and otherwise improve the church. Plans were prepared by Mr Butterfield, and the vestry petitioned the Bishop of Winchester (Dr Harold Browne), through his chancellor, to grant a faculty for the proposed alterations.

These changes were carried out in two parts, at intervals, as the money was raised. The first portion was completed in 1876 and included the removal of the old pews and the substitution for them of uniform open benches with kneeling boards; the demolition of a large part of the north and south galleries and of the children's galleries at the west end of the church, and the removal of the large lobby beneath the organ gallery, where the bread had been distributed each Sunday. The bread hutch was removed into the tower, the open arches of which were now provided with doors so as to enclose the whole tower space.

But the greatest improvement of all was the pulling down of the pulpit and desks and the construction of a choir extending into the body of the church, and the provision of a tesselated pavement gradually ascending by steps from the nave-level till the beautiful marble pavement of the sanctuary was reached, which led up to the footpace of white marble, on which a new altar-table was set up, to replace the existing

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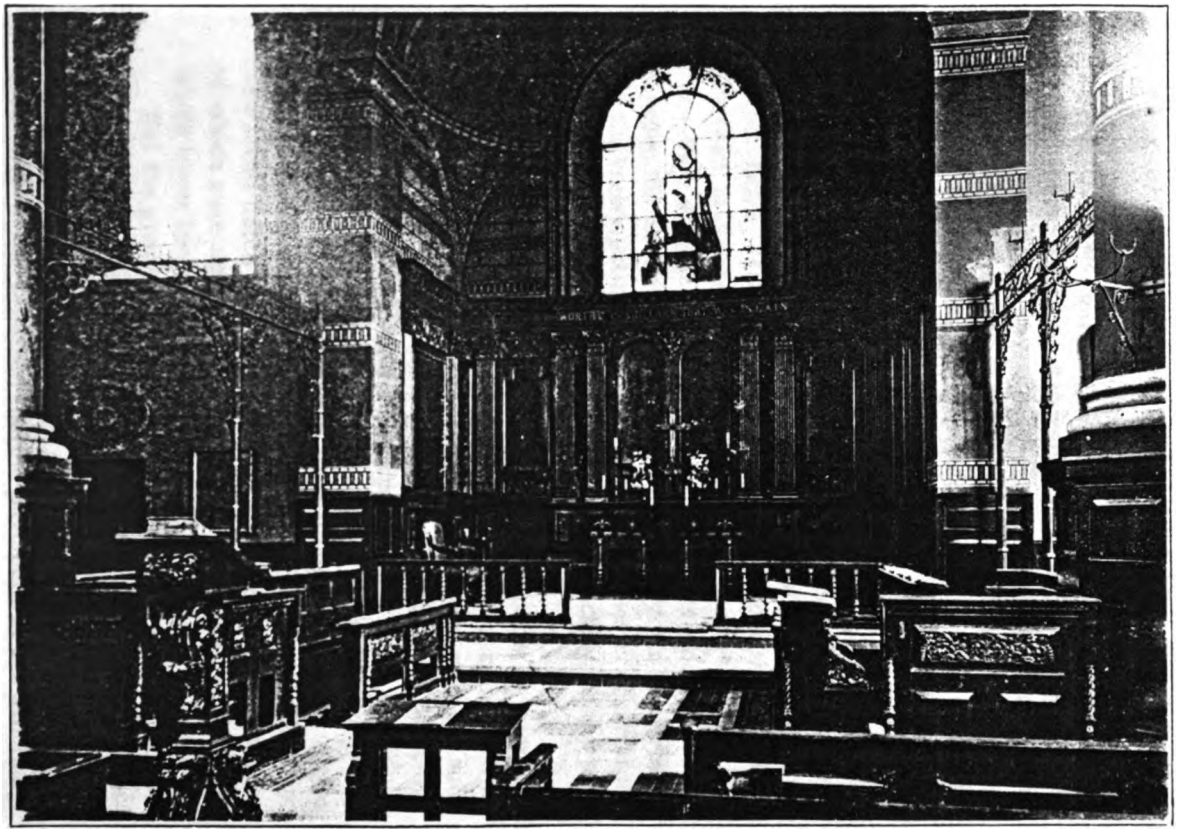

Interior of St Mary, Rotherhithe. Choir and Chancel.

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table, which was removed into the clergy vestry. The choir stalls, with stalls for the clergy, were constructed out of the carved oak which was previously scattered over the church pews. The altar-rails were of finely carved oak. A new choir vestry was built in connection with a furnace-chamber for the heating apparatus, and the church was beautifully lighted by gas brackets projecting from the pillars and along the top of two elegant screens of wrought iron on either side of the choir, most skilfully constructed out of iron brackets which had served as supports for hat-pegs under the old galleries. A beautiful oak lectern was likewise presented to the church by the builder, Mr Norris, and the old high pulpit was cut down and placed against the north-eastern pillar of the church, where it is in an excellent position for the preacher to have his entire congregation well in view. A beautifully embroidered silk altar frontal with an altar covering of crimson cloth was designed by Mr Butterfield and made and presented to the church by a lady residing in Chester. The chalice vail was worked and given by another lady friend, a near relative of the rector. The white altar cloth and linen and altar vases for flowers were the gift of another lady. Flowers have never ceased to be placed on the retable each week from this time forward to the present day. For all these improvements we were indebted to the skill and carefully considered plans of the architect, Mr Butterfield, who made a study of the best methods of adapting the old classical churches of London to the needs of modern times and a more catholic type of ritual in the services of the Church of England.

On All Saints' Day, November 1, 1876, the renovated church was solemnly re-opened by the Bishop of the diocese, Dr Harold Browne, whose sermon on the occasion was a masterpiece of sacred eloquence commending their beautiful church to the loving regard of the parishioners of St Mary, Rotherhithe. There was one matter which excited in some quarters a feeling of dissatisfaction. A cross of wood had been placed over the holy table, and two altar candlesticks had been presented by a private friend. These are of course

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recognized lawful ornaments of the church; but they were new to Rotherhithe people who are essentially conservative in all church matters and averse to any novelties. The Bishop, however, listened patiently to the protests addressed to him and pointed out the undoubted lawfulness of the cross and lights, and before many months all opposition died away, especially as it was found that the old Gospel message continued to be proclaimed, and that there was no new doctrinal change involved in the alterations which had been carried out.

During the nine years which had seen the building of St Barnabas' and renovation of St Mary's, there were other weighty cares which pressed heavily on the rector's heart. The four schools were a constant source of anxiety. The teachers indeed were most devoted to their work, and the children continued to flock into the schools, but a new and rival system had been set up and was supported by the public rates. In 1870 Mr W. E. Forster carried through Parliament his Education Act, which was undoubtedly a most necessary measure. In London no choice could be left to the ratepayers as to adopting the provisions of the Act, for the unprecedented increase in the population had left wide areas quite unprovided with elementary schools, and the voluntary efforts of the Church of England and of the few other religious bodies which cared for education were inadequate to grapple with the want which was of such vast dimensions.

In 1872 or thereabouts the first Board School was opened in Rotherhithe in temporary premises, but before long a large school was built in the midst of the existing church schools. This was the Albion Street Board School, and on the opening day the managers of the church schools quickly found out that Mr Forster's promise that the Board School system was to supplement but not to supplant the existing educational agencies, was not to be fulfilled under the policy of the School Board for London; for on that morning the newly-appointed teachers at Albion Street, without scruple, admitted on their books any scholars who presented themselves, regardless of their being already on the registers of the other schools of Rotherhithe.

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The openly expressed desire of the advocates of the School Board system was to crush out every other system, and it was confidently predicted that the "painless extinction" of the National Schools was only a matter of time.

The few Nonconformist day schools in South London were speedily closed or handed over to the School Board, and the only voluntary schools left in the field were those of the Church of England and those supported by the Roman Catholics.

It will be easily understood from what has just been stated how severe was the struggle and how arduous the task of maintaining our Rotherhithe schools in the face of competition so unfair and under circumstances so adverse. But not a single Rotherhithe school has ceased to exist; no single transfer was made; no single body of church managers hauled down the flag or spoke of surrender. It was only half-hearted churchmen who spoke of the struggle as needless and doomed to failure. We used sometimes to be told that there was room for both systems to work harmoniously side by side. Those who uttered these platitudes shut their eyes to the patent fact that one of the two systems was doing all in its power to uproot the other. Others discoursed on the merits of the "undenominational teaching" which should satisfy everyone, by omitting to teach children any truth that anyone had any objection to.

To-day we are witnessing a renewed effort of the Nonconformists to ruin the Church and her schools by destroying the London Education Act of 1903, and the local authorities created by it, and extinguishing the voluntary school system. Their expectations of success are built upon party politics, but political parties are apt to make shipwreck when they fight against the Church of God, and meanwhile the schools are being rapidly brought up to the level of the educational requirements of 1904, and we believe they have a grand future still before them for the religious and moral training of the children of the Church.

Certainly in Rotherhithe it is the Church Schools which find most favour with the parents, who have long since

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known who are their truest friends, and we have not given up hope that we shall on the whole receive fair play at the hands of the London County Council.

The anxieties of the last thirty-five years are giving way before a feeling of faith and confidence, which there is good reason to believe is not misplaced or unfounded.

As time went by, and indeed even before the new church and Church Schools of St Barnabas were well out of hand, yet another problem had to be met.

The conversion of the market gardens in 1868 into a beautiful park with cricket oval and football pitches and a lake well-stocked with water-fowl gave a fresh impetus to the building operations, which quickly created a new neighbourhood on the further side of "Southwark Park," and the railway companies opened new stations and arranged facilities for the occupiers of these new streets to reach the City and the Borough for their daily employments.

But no church had as yet been thought of for these newly-created centres of population, and many an anxious hour was spent by the rector as he sought how to solve the problem, and looked in vain for a few roods of vacant land for a site on which to build a church. But an unknown and unsuspected friend was even at that very moment waiting to come to the rescue. One who signed himself in his letters to the Church newspapers as "a London Merchant" communicated with the rector of Rotherhithe and told him that in his daily journeyings to London from his home in Chislehurst he had noted the rapid growth of humble streets overtopped only by large public-houses and towering Board Schools, and that his heart was moved with the desire to plant a church or churches in this barren wilderness of brick which was rapidly swallowing up the country fields. An interview with this new-found friend led to the acquisition by him of an admirably suitable site in Eugenia Road, on part of the old St Helena Gardens, which the Surrey magistrates had been obliged to close on account of their demoralizing influence on the neighbourhood. A clergyman was appointed by the Bishop of the diocese to be curate-in-charge of the

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district, the Rev. T. C. Johnson, who had learned in Gravesend, under Canon Scarth, the practical working of a poor district. First a commodious Mission Hall was built and rapidly crowded with worshippers and catechumens. Next the beautiful church of St Katharine was erected and consecrated, and constituted a consolidated chapelry August 13, 1886; and, last of all, a vicarage house was added to complete the equipment of the new parish, which was also endowed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The cost of the church was defrayed by a grant of £1000 from the Ten Churches' Fund of the Bishop of Rochester's Diocesan Society, and by voluntary contributions, in large part raised by the wealthy inhabitants of Chislehurst, who from the first adopted this district as their "mission."

At the same time a corresponding work was being carried on by friends connected with Camberwell, particularly by Mr Richard Ravenhill and by Mr Livesay, Chairman of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, which resulted in the erection of St Bartholomew's Church in Barkworth Road, and the constitution of a district parish November 17, 1888. The devoted clergyman who undertook this district was the Rev. Henry Wells, and he sacrificed his life to the work, dying prematurely from over-strain.

Here also the Ten Churches' Fund allocated another grant of £1000, and a commodious vicarage house has likewise been provided. Although St Bartholomew's is a Camberwell church it provides for the outlying part of Rotherhithe, which stretches out beyond the Bricklayers' Arms branch of the South Eastern Railway.

Yet another work of church building was undertaken for Rotherhithe, this time not by individual churchmen, but by one of the colleges in the University of Cambridge. The rector was permitted to preach in his old college chapel of Clare College, and to hold meetings in college on the subject.

Not all at once did the response come to the appeal then made, but some twelve months later the Master and Resident Fellows of Clare and a large number of the undergraduate

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members of the college were moved to pledge themselves to support a college mission in Rotherhithe, remembering that the college is patron of this benefice, and that the needs of Rotherhithe have thereby a special claim upon their interest and their help.

The establishment in the year 1885 of the Clare College Mission in Abbeyfield Road has been an inestimable blessing to that district in which its mission church and Sunday Schools and other institutions for the religious and moral improvement of the people find their sphere of operation. And we venture to say that the corresponding blessing which re-acts on those in Cambridge who support and take part in the mission work here is indeed incalculable, and fills us all with deep thankfulness to God.

St Paul's Chapel-of-ease, which was built during the incumbency of the Rev. E. Blick, and consecrated June 1, 1850, is a structure of some architectural merit, but unhappily the stone which was employed for the window jambs and for the gables and angles of the main building and of the porch is of a most perishable kind, and it has in half a century become quite impossible to hope to do anything with it short of removing it altogether and replacing it with better stones or tiles. Moreover the arrangement of the church was very defective, the seats being placed so close one to another that it was all but impossible to kneel down between them. The chancel also was somewhat mean, and there was no provision for a choir except on a platform erected on an inclined plane at the west end of the church, where a small and very inferior organ was set up to take the place of the flute with which the parish clerk had been used to lead the singers in earlier days.

After the parish church had been completely renovated the rector was able to take St Paul's Chapel in hand, and his good friend Mr Butterfield kindly made plans and specifications for its restoration. It was probably the very last work of church renovation on which he was engaged, for he soon after gave up the practice of his profession and his lamented death occurred in 1899. The work was carried out

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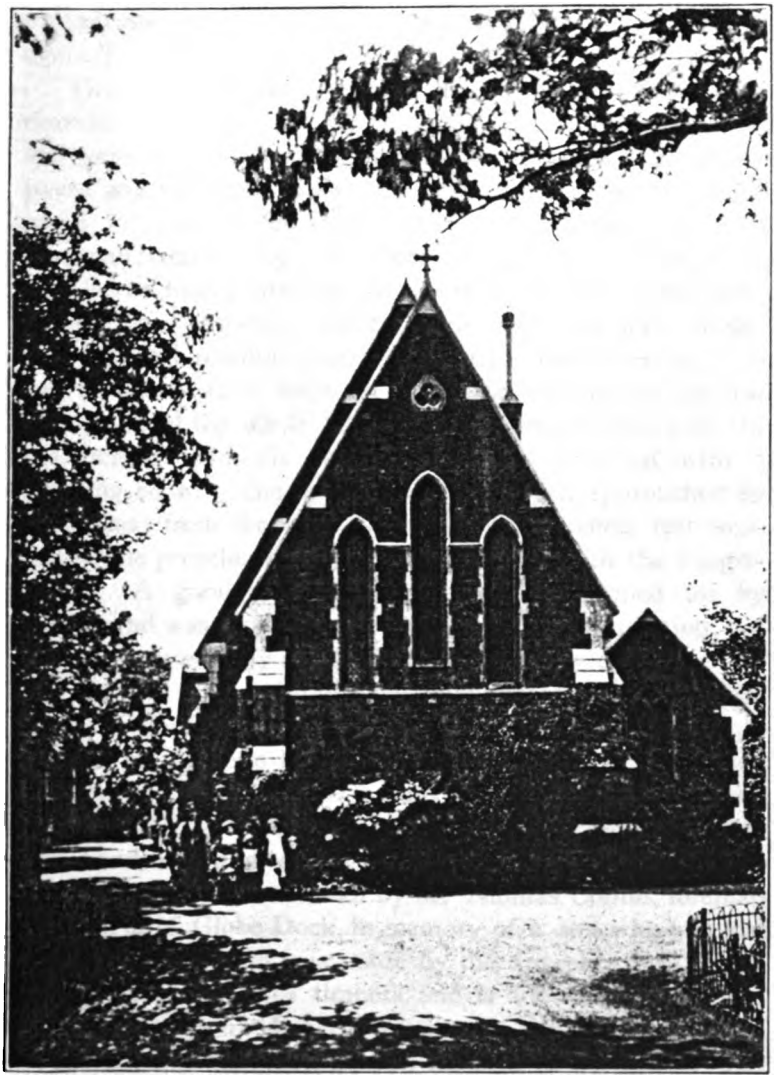

St Paul's Chapel-of-Ease, Rotherhithe. (East End.)

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in December, 1892, and in the months of January, February, March, and April of 1893 by Mr Joseph Norris, builder, of Sunningdale, who had so satisfactorily built St Barnabas' Church and renovated St Mary's Church, both in 1876 and again in 1888.

The following were the chief alterations made: The chancel was lengthened by removing the altar-rails several feet west, and the sanctuary space thus enlarged was suitably paved and the levels of the altar steps and footpace arranged so as to give the required height and dignity. The Ten Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer, which had served as a mean background to the Communion Table, and were painted on a surface of cement, were removed, and a simple but dignified reredos took their place. The choir stalls of oak and pear wood were set up. The western gallery was removed, and the whole floor of the church set out with the old benches properly spaced and each provided with a kneeling board. The pulpit, which had been approached by a staircase from the vestry, was removed several feet west, and so the preacher was brought into touch with the congregation. A good American organ was subscribed for by friends and was placed beside the lectern. The lighting and heating were entirely new and were found very effective.

There is a great interest attached to the erection of this church. The architect who built it was a Mr Beatson, a relative of Mr John Beatson, the shipbreaker, who had ten years before broken up the famous "Fighting Téméraire," and of her timbers were made the altar-table, the altar-rails, and two handsome altar-chairs. A handsome lectern was also later presented to the church by Mr Thomas Collins, foreman shipwright of Globe Dock, in memory of a son who was lost at sea. This lectern was made by the apprentices in Globe Dock, out of old ships' timbers, and is adorned with flowers and fruit, well carved in the manner of the old Rotherhithe ships' carvers, whose reputation in their craft was so well known and so highly valued by ship-builders in the olden days of wooden ships. An inscription has been placed on each of these pieces of church furniture recording the conse-

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cration to a peaceful and sacred purpose of these relics of Nelson and Trafalgar and the stirring days of 1805[1]. Some repairs were effected also to the exterior of the church to render the bell turret and the copings of the gables and the gable crosses at least secure, but, as has been said, the stone itself was past repair.

On the completion of these works the church was re-opened for service on Sunday, May 14, 1893, the preacher at the evening service being the Rev. H. P. Gurney, who had so often ministered in it a quarter of a century earlier.

In 1875, after the death of the Rev. John Bowstead, rector of St Olave's and rural dean, the Bishop of Winchester, Dr Harold E. Browne, appointed Mr Beck to be rural dean of Southwark, an office which he held for twelve years. The additional labour involved was very considerable, but it was an honourable and useful work: and he was glad to be thus brought into closer contact with the clergy of this large and populous deanery, which at that time included part of Lambeth and extended nearly to Westminster Bridge. In 1887 Mr Beck resigned the rural deanery, and was succeeded by the Rev. C. D. Lawrence, M.A., then rector of Bermondsey.

On August 1, 1877, the parishes of East and Mid-Surrey and South London were transferred to the diocese of Rochester, which was reconstituted on the formation of the new diocese of St Alban's; and so Rotherhithe passed from the jurisdiction of the bishops of Winchester who had for many centuries been its ecclesiastical rulers.

A new archdeaconry of Southwark was formed at the same time, and Dr Cheetham was appointed its first archdeacon.

Two years later, in 1879, a new archdeaconry of Kingston-

[1] An aged woman was living in Rotherhithe Street near St Paul's Chapel in 1867 whose age exceeded 100 years, Eleanor Todman. She more than once related to the present writer, when he was visiting her in her declining days, that she well remembered the dead body of Lord Nelson passing her home on the banks of the Thames on its way to St Paul's Cathedral to be buried in state.

The story of the "Fighting Téméraire" tugged to her last berth, the shipbreaker's yard in Rotherhithe Street, will never be forgotten while Englishmen look with delight upon Turner's great picture in the National Gallery. See pp. 211, 212.

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upon-Thames was constituted, and Canon Burney, vicar of St Mark's, Surbiton, became the first archdeacon of Kingston.

All of these changes, which so vitally affected the future of the southern districts of London, followed on the action taken by Bishop Harold Browne who, coming to us when no longer a young or vigorous man from the agricultural diocese of Ely, in which lies the great University of Cambridge, found the anxieties of South London too great a strain, and in consultation with Mr Cubitt of Dorking (now Lord Ashcombe) and Mr Cross (Home Secretary, afterwards Lord Cross) rearranged the dioceses of Winchester and Rochester. When these new ecclesiastical arrangements became known, it must be confessed that they were not welcomed with any unanimity or enthusiasm. Most of us, had we been asked our opinion, would have desired a Southwark diocese to be formed, and that, after 28 years, has at length been effected. However, the appointment of our new Bishop greatly reconciled us to the inevitable change. The Bishop of Rochester (Dr Claughton) made his choice to become the first Bishop of St Alban's, and his home was Danbury Palace in Essex. The new Bishop of the reconstituted diocese of Rochester was Dr Anthony Wilson Thorold, vicar of St Pancras, Middlesex, and Canon of York. No one could have organized the diocese more wisely or more skilfully than did Bishop Thorold. His task was no easy one. He had to weld together its Kent and Surrey fragments into a homogeneous whole. The interests of these two distant and divided portions of the diocese were widely different, and it was hard indeed so to arrange that neither should suffer from being welded with the other.

Meanwhile South London was adding to its already unwieldy population by vast yearly increases. And yet its bishop, longing to give himself to this absorbing charge, might not be unmindful of the claims of his cathedral city with its garrison and dockyard population. He was also unprovided with a house in the diocese: for the sale of Winchester House, the town residence of the bishops of Winchester in St James' Square, had enabled St Alban's diocese to be constituted; and Bishop Thorold had to hire a

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house to live in at his own expense, and Selsdon Park in the parish of Sanderstead, near Croydon, was the temporary abode of the South London Bishop.

The new diocese made it imperative to create new institutions, and the Rochester Diocesan Society and the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education were formed to organize the Home Mission work and the work of the schools respectively.

Many other organizations were developed in due course under the Bishop's fostering care, e.g. the Deaconesses' Institution, the Temperance work, including the Police Courts' Missions, the Lay Workers' Association, &c.

The Diocesan Conference of clergy and laity was set on foot to meet yearly at various centres in the diocese.

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of Bishop Thorold's episcopate was the establishment of the College and Public Schools' Mission in different parishes of South London. The first to be planted here was the Lady Margaret Mission in Walworth, in 1884, maintained by St John's College, Cambridge.

The next was the Clare College Mission in Rotherhithe, in 1885, and others followed their example, Pembroke, Corpus Christi, Caius; and the magnificent Trinity College Mission in the parish of St George's, Camberwell, was commenced in January, 1886, and has since developed into "the Cambridge Settlement."

The Wilberforce Mission was another institution for the benefit of South London, in memory of the great prelate whose tragic death touched all hearts in 1873, and one of the Wilberforce missionaries worked for several years in this parish.

Of the public schools, Charterhouse and Wellington and Cheltenham College support missions, and the United Girls' Schools have a mission and a settlement in Camberwell. Truly our South London parishes are being helped in undreamt-of ways, and have very great cause for gratitude.

In Rotherhithe for several years another Cambridge college, Jesus College, maintained a mission house on Rotherhithe wall in Christ Church parish, where a member of the

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Interior of St Mary, Rotherhithe. (Nave.)

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college, the Rev. C. D. B. Somerville, curate of Christ Church, lived and worked for the poor lads of that very forlorn district. Other members of Jesus College from time to time joined Mr Somerville, and resided in the mission house.

It has lately been found impossible to maintain this useful work, and this part of Rotherhithe suffers from the discontinuance of the mission which we would thankfully see once more taken up.

In the latter part of the year 1888 a further instalment of the scheme of church renovation was carried out in the mother church of St Mary, Rotherhithe, and several important works which had been left over from 1876 were now taken in hand. The two side galleries were entirely removed and only the great western gallery remains, extending across the entire width of the church. The organ had been considerably improved and it still remains in its original position. Usually the organs in restored churches have been moved to the eastern end of the north aisle in order to be nearer to the choir; but this has almost invariably proved detrimental to the architectural character of the church, blocking windows and taking up valuable space on the floor which ought to be exclusively used for seating the congregation. In our case the length of the church is not great and the choir has been without difficulty taught to sing independently of the support of an organ in immediate proximity to their stalls.

The great windows, fourteen in number, were found to be badly in need of re-glazing, having never been renewed since the church was built in 1715. Mr Butterfield designed a simple pattern following the lines of the iron framework of the windows, and this was carried out in bands of rich ruby colour on a ground of yellow-green cathedral glass. The cost of each window (£7) was undertaken by individual friends, and the improvement to the general effect was very great, harmonizing with the general scheme of colour which Mr Butterfield had adopted for the columns and the walls and roof of the church. The walls, which had been temporarily coloured in distemper, were now painted in oil colour. The church had to be closed for some time and was re-opened on

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3rd March, Quinquagesima Sunday, 1889. The morning preacher was the Rev. William Raynes, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Clare College, Cambridge. The evening sermon was preached by the Rev. H. P. Gurney, M.A., Fellow of Clare and a former curate of Rotherhithe.

The Lent of 1889 was marked by a series of sermons from friends of the rector, among whom were the Rev. H. H. Selby-Hele, vicar of Holy Trinity, Rotherhithe, the Rev. Canon Burrows, of Rochester, the Rev. E. D. Kershaw, domestic chaplain to Earl Delawarr, the Rev. H. R. Bailey, rector of Great Warley, Essex, and formerly Fellow and Tutor of St John's College, Cambridge, and the Rev. Canon Scarth, vicar of Bearsted, Kent.

The new year (1890) was also heralded in by sermons from the Rev. Dr Atkinson, Master of Clare, and on Jan. 12 by the Right Rev. Bishop Barry, D.D., co-adjutor bishop of the diocese, who subsequently held a confirmation at which 148 candidates were presented (44 being from St Mary, Rotherhithe). The Lenten preachers that year included Canon Burrows, B.D., the Bishop of Colchester (Dr A. Blomfield), Dr Cundy, rector of Beeby, Lincolnshire, lately rector of St Paul's, Deptford, and Canon Boger.

All this revival of church life amongst us was the fruit of the renewed beauty of the material fabric of the old parish church.

In November of the same year was held the festival service of the London Gregorian Choral Association, to which all London is so deeply indebted for the revival in our churches of the ancient ritual music, the rich treasures of which had been all but unknown even to professed church musicians. The preacher on this occasion was the Rev. C. C. Buss, assistant curate of St Margaret's, Lothbury, and the church was thronged with persons anxious to hear the united choirs at solemn evensong.

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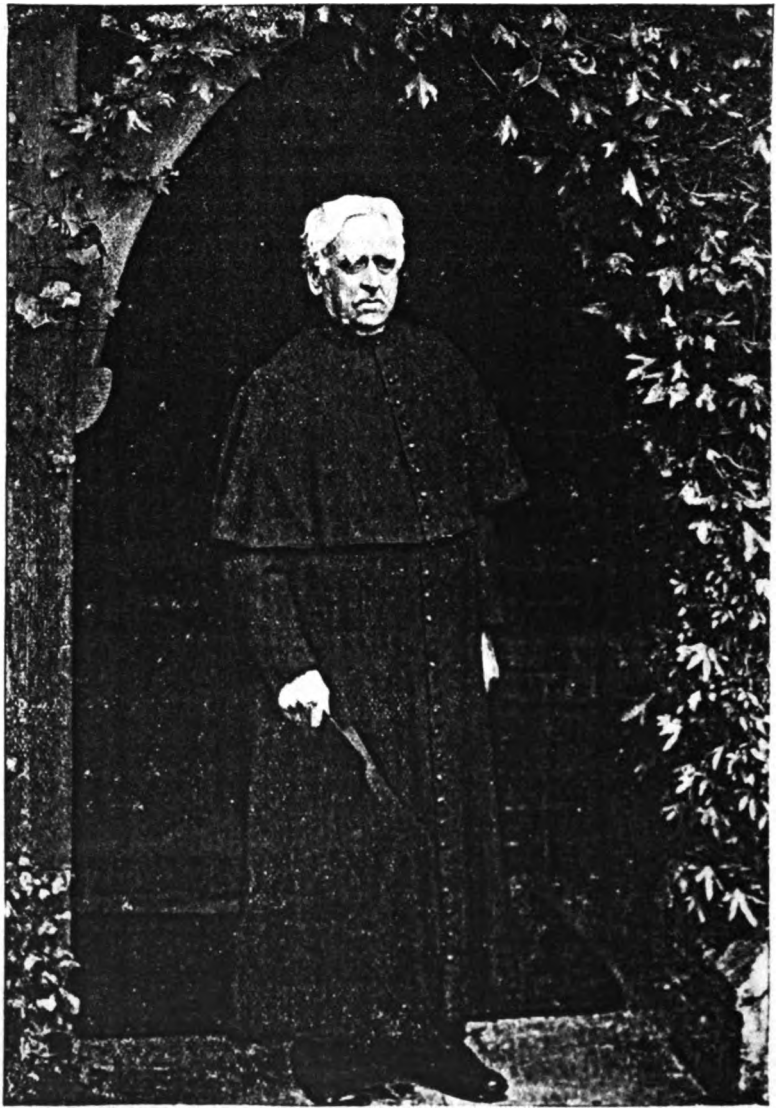

The Rev. Wm. Hutchinson, M.A., the first Minister of Holy Trinity, Rotherhithe.

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CHAPTER VII.

THE CURATES AND OTHER CLERGY OF ROTHERHITHE.

THIS account of the rectors of Rotherhithe would not be complete without some record of the good men who have served as assistant curates of the parish, and without whose labours the incumbents would have been quite unequal to the demands made upon them in such a poor and populous parish.

The work of the incumbents of the several district parishes must also find place in this chapter.

The curates who acted as colleagues to Mr Blick are of course unknown except by name to the present writer. Yet some of them were men of power and devoted to their ministerial duties.

His first curate was his brother-in-law, the Rev. Wm. Hutchinson, M.A., of All Souls' College, Oxford, who became the first incumbent of Holy Trinity Church from 1836 to 1850, and who still survives, as rector of Blurton, in Staffordshire, and Prebendary of Curborough in Lichfield Cathedral[1].

The Rev. Philip Davison Bland, M.A., of University College, Oxford, was ordained deacon in 1847 and priest in 1848 by the Bishop of Winchester for the curacy of Rotherhithe. And it was owing to his earnest work and liberal contributions of money and successful efforts in collecting subscriptions from others that St Paul's Chapel was built. He was rector of Worsop, Notts, from 1860 to 1870. He became rector of Draycott-le-Moors, near Stoke-on-Trent, in 1870, and he ceased to hold that benefice either by resignation or by death in or about 1900.

[1] See Appendix.

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The Rev. C. Hine of Trinity College, Dublin, was much esteemed by Mr Blick. The Rev. E. J. Wade also of Trinity College, Dublin, was greatly liked as curate. He was afterwards curate of St Anne's, Soho.

The Rev. James Wilson, M.A., of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, became curate of Rotherhithe in 1851, and worked with great zeal and earnestness, first as headmaster of the Rotherhithe Grammar School and as curate of the parish church. In 1859 he was appointed by Mr Blick to succeed the Rev. J. R. Turing as minister of Holy Trinity, Rotherhithe, and here he was devoted to the work of the schools and of the parish for 29 years, till his health and his voice completely failed, and he was constrained to resign his charge, to the great regret of his parishioners and friends, and was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Horne Selby-Hele, who remained vicar of Holy Trinity till in 1900 he exchanged benefices with the Rev. W. D. Sweeting, M.A., the rector of Maxey, near Peterborough, who was vicar of Holy Trinity until Oct. 31, 1905; being succeeded by the Rev. H. R. P. Tringham, M.A.

Mr Selby-Hele had a valuable experience as a clergyman in the United States of America before he came to England. He did not survive his induction to the parish of Maxey more than a few brief months. He met his death on the last day of 1900 under tragic circumstances. He left home to ride his bicycle into Peterborough; he was found lying on the ground quite dead beside his machine.

The Rev. J. T. Becher was a very devoted curate of Rotherhithe, and colleague of Mr Wilson for several years in the latter part of Mr Blick's life, but he had a sad ending. He was appointed to a small living in the country, and had just made the heavy payments which a new incumbent has to meet on his induction, when he was stricken with mortal illness, and died, leaving two little orphan girls quite unprovided for. They were happily befriended and educated at the Clergy Orphan School.

The Rev. John Ludford Gardner was curate at the same time with Mr Becher about 1860.

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The Rev. Alfred Walne was curate in 1863.

The Rev. James Moore, M.A., of Worcester College, Oxford, was one of Mr Blick's last curates, from June 22, 1862, till 1867, a most simple-hearted and devoted clergyman, loyal to his rector, and beloved in the parish. On him fell the burden when the aged rector was stricken down with his last illness. The second curate, the Rev. Ambrose Morris, though active and energetic, and greatly liked by the people, was as yet only in deacon's orders, and with little experience in the work of a parish.

Mr Moore manfully bore the burden, and when the present rector took charge of the parish in November, 1867, he found in James Moore a faithful friend and colleague, and was most thankful to retain his services and to profit by his intimate knowledge of Rotherhithe and its schools and its people. In 1870 Mr Rathbone presented Mr Moore to the parish of All Saints, Liverpool, an extremely poor and laborious cure, in which he laboured most assiduously with his young wife (Miss Edell Philips, a niece of the Rev. James Wilson, vicar of Holy Trinity). But his health was shattered, and he was obliged to resign his benefice. A sojourn in Norway failed to restore him, and he died, broken down in body and in mind, a faithful servant of the Lord.

The Rev. Ambrose Morris came in deacon's orders, November 25, 1866, to Rotherhithe (as curate); he had been ordained deacon in the diocese of Manchester by Bishop Prince Lee, February 25, 1866, and he was permitted to migrate to the diocese of Winchester on account of the death of his incumbent. He was admitted to the priesthood by Bishop Sumner, of Winchester, at the Christmas Ordination of 1867, on the title given to him by the new rector, Mr Beck. He continued as curate of Rotherhithe until 1871, when he became curate of All Souls', Langham Place, St Marylebone. From 1872 to 1877 he was incumbent of St James', in the Island of Guernsey, and from 1877 to 1892 rector of St Thomas', Old Charlton, in Kent. Since 1892 Mr Morris has been vicar of Wythall, near Alvechurch, in the diocese of Worcester.

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There are still many in Rotherhithe who remember with gratitude his kind friendship and diligent ministrations. He married the daughter of the Rev. Churchill Julius, who is now the Bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr Morris has a son in holy orders, the Rev. Arthur Julius Morris. He was a scholar of University College, Oxford, and after serving the curacy of Helston, in Cornwall (1899-1902), and that of St Matthew's, Fulham (1902-1904), he is now curate of St John's, Whetstone, in the London diocese.

In February, 1869, the Rev. Herbert Thomas Maitland, M.A., of Worcester College, Oxford, became curate of Rotherhithe. He was ordained deacon at the Lent Ordination of 1869 by Bishop Claughton, of Rochester, by Letters Dimissory from the Bishop of Winchester (Dr Sumner, then in feeble health), and received priest's orders on Trinity Sunday, 1870, from Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, then Bishop of Winchester in succession to Bishop Sumner. Mr Maitland remained in Rotherhithe until Easter, 1871, leaving after two years to the great regret of his rector. He was an exceedingly able, earnest, and diligent young clergyman, and gave promise even then of the high position he has since attained. As a faithful pastor and preacher his ministrations were greatly valued by all who came under his teaching, and his influence for good was inestimable in the parish. But his health was delicate, and he found the work in Rotherhithe very trying.

He became in 1871 curate to his friend and future father-in-law, the Rev. Canon Scarth, at that time vicar of Holy Trinity, Milton, next Gravesend, with whom he remained till 1874. He then took the curacy of St Mary Stoke, Ipswich, of which parish the Rev. Canon Henderson, formerly Precentor of Ely Cathedral, was at that time rector.

In 1877 he became curate of St Martin's with St Paul's, Canterbury, where he passed several happy years till 1882, gaining experience and ripening in wisdom, and becoming a remarkable preacher. In 1882 his rector, Mr Strettell, resigned his benefice, and the parishioners earnestly desired that Mr Maitland might be appointed to succeed, but the Archbishop

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(Dr Tait) had other views, and he gave Mr Maitland the living of Postling near Hythe. Postling is a tiny village with a very interesting and ancient church, but offering little scope for the great gifts of its new rector.

In 1884 his old rector, Mr Beck, had the opportunity of recommending the munificent founder of the beautiful church of St Saviour, Walthamstow, to offer him the incumbency of that important church and parish. Here Mr Maitland remained as vicar till 1900, grappling wisely and manfully with the problems of that district of "London over the Border." A large and devout congregation filled his noble parish church, and missionary work of an earnest kind was carried on in the rapidly increasing population which came out in thousands to inhabit the new streets of working-class dwellings which filled the Lea valley.

Mr Maitland was appointed in 1900 by the Bishop of Oxford to the charge of the important parish of Abingdon, with its beautiful churches and a population of 6458 souls. He is now rural dean of Abingdon, and has a sphere of work in which his remarkable gifts find ample scope.

The Rev. Routh Tomlinson, M.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, was licensed to Rotherhithe by Bishop Wilberforce, Lady Day, 1871, for the special charge of the new mission district of St Barnabas, and it had been intended that he should be the first incumbent of the new church when completed. Mr Tomlinson's first experience was in the diocese and city of Peterborough in 1863 and he was subsequently at Lutterworth. He gave promise of being a most successful clergyman in drawing a congregation round him out of the new streets which were conventionally assigned to St Barnabas'. The church was rapidly approaching completion when in February, 1872, Mr Tomlinson was obliged to leave the work he had taken up here on being appointed by the Oley trustees to the vicarage of Warmfield or Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield in Yorkshire, and the rector had to seek for another clergyman for St Barnabas'.

This was not an easy task. A temporary arrangement was made in March, 1872, with the Rev. Herbert Mather, M.A.,

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of Trinity College, Cambridge, who had been a S. P. G. missionary in Newfoundland and incumbent of St John's Cathedral there; and Mr Mather took charge of St Barnabas' district to the great advantage of the people. His work was of a remarkably powerful character as may be understood by his various spheres of ministerial activity in the church at a later period of his life. After being rector of All Saints', Huntingdon, and provost of Inverness Cathedral, he was consecrated to the bishopric of Antigua in 1897 and continued in that charge until 1904. He is now coadjutor to the Bishop of Hereford.

Eventually the charge of St Barnabas' district was accepted by the Rev. Robert Russell, M.A., of Oriel College, Oxford, a most excellent parish priest, who devoted the rest of his life to the parish which was committed to his trust. Robert Russell was born in January, 1841, at Leek in Staffordshire. He was of Scotch parentage. He was educated at the Kensington Grammar School under Dr W. Haig Brown, afterwards headmaster of Charterhouse. From school Mr Russell matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, and took his B.A. degree in 1863, proceeding M.A. in 1866.

He was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1864 to the curacy of Ilminster in Somerset. In 1866 he was ordained priest by the Bishop of Peterborough and became curate of Kibworth Beauchamp in Leicestershire (1866–68).

From 1868 to 1872 he was curate of St Margaret's, Barking, Essex, serving successively under the Rev. H. W. Jermyn, afterwards bishop of Brechin, and under the Rev. Alfred Blomfield, subsequently archdeacon of Essex and suffragan bishop of Colchester. It was under these distinguished clergymen that Mr Russell received that training in parochial work which fitted him for what was to be his life's work in Rotherhithe, where he officiated for the first time in the newly consecrated church of St Barnabas on Sunday, August 11, 1872.

In 1873 the new parish was constituted by an order of the Queen in council, and Mr Russell became the first vicar.

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In 1874 the "Gomm Schools" were built and quickly filled with scholars. These schools of St Barnabas' parish were for twenty-six years Mr Russell's constant care, and few days passed without a visit from the vicar. The religious instruction was constantly given by him and he shared the toils of the teachers, himself giving lessons to the elder children in Latin and French. The annual prize day was always a red-letter day, the Gomm prizes and other rewards given by kind friends were greatly coveted and earnestly competed for; and at these gatherings the vicar, with a face radiant with happiness, would make his yearly speech, full of humour and quaint wisdom, to the assembled parents and friends of the school.

A vicarage house was in due course acquired adjoining the church, and here his aged mother made her home with her unmarried son. The annual dedication festivals each St Barnabas' Day were always the occasion of happy re-unions in which the rector took his part.

The beautiful east window was eventually filled with painted glass, to Mr Russell's great joy. He would sit in the church and contemplate the noble forms of the Saviour surrounded by His saints, and his face would beam with reverent emotion.

But the end of his pilgrimage was drawing near. A fatal disease attacked him, and all through the year 1900 he was becoming more seriously ill. Shortly before Advent he went to Bournemouth, but the hopes of his recovery grew sadly less and less as the weeks went by. On a Sunday afternoon, March 10, 1901, the end came; and on the Wednesday following, March 13, the rector laid his friend to rest in the new cemetery at Boscombe, a little company of Rotherhithe friends standing round the grave. R.I.P.

The Rev. Henry Palin Gurney, B.A., Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, was licensed to the curacy of Rotherhithe by Bishop Wilberforce (Winton) and preached for the first time in the parish church on the first Sunday after Trinity, 1871. And so commenced a ministry which was singularly fruitful of good, and which knit him by the bonds of closest

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intimacy and affection with the rector and parishioners of this parish.

Mr Gurney was already in deacon's orders, having been ordained on his Fellowship title by the Bishop of Ely (Dr E. Harold Browne) in his cathedral.

The circumstances which led him to seek work in Rotherhithe were indeed providential. The rector was taking part in the annual College Commemoration at Clare, when Mr Gurney, at that time one of the junior Fellows, offered his services as curate. The proposal was immediately accepted with gladness and gratitude.

The charge of St Paul's Chapel district was especially assigned to Mr Gurney. He was ordained priest on Trinity Sunday, 1872.

But Mr Gurney's life's work was not to be the care of a parish. He was a born teacher of science, and after some years spent in private tuition he was offered in 1894 the important post of Principal of the Durham University College of Science at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in which he continued till his death. His brilliant services to the college were well known and highly valued there. He graduated D.C.L. in the University of Durham.

In the midst of this absorbing work Dr Gurney was never unmindful of his character as a Christian priest. He was one of the chaplains of the Bishop of Newcastle (Dr Jacob) and was always appreciated by the congregation of the cathedral when he preached there. But the work that most deeply interested him was that of the Diocesan Penitentiary at Gosforth of which he was warden. Every Sunday morning he celebrated the Holy Sacrament for the sisters and penitents, and preached to them at evensong, receiving their confessions and ministering to them for their spiritual restoration.

In July of 1904 he went to Arolla for rest, with two of his daughters. On the morning of Saturday, August 13, he left the hotel early for a climb on La Roussette. He reached the highest point on the rocks when one false step caused him to slip and fall, and his wife and children were left to mourn their irreparable loss. His body was laid to rest by

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Mr Beck in the beautiful churchyard of Ganarew in Herefordshire, within sight of the parish of Whitchurch, whence in 1872 he had brought his bride to share his work in Rotherhithe. R.I.P.

The Rev. William Lamprey Bowditch, B.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, was ordained deacon Sept. 24, 1871, by Bishop Wilberforce of Winchester in St Mary's Church, Southampton, to the curacy of Rotherhithe, and began his ministry here on Michaelmas Day. He was ordained priest by Bishop Wilberforce in Dec. 1872.

Mr Bowditch was a very diligent clergyman and worked hard in the schools and in the district. The curates at that time lived together in a house taken for them by the rector in Princes Street, known as "St Mary's Clergy House."

Mr Bowditch remained in Rotherhithe until 1875 when he accepted a curacy in the London diocese at St Mary Magdalene's, Paddington. He eventually undertook missionary work in South Africa in the diocese of Natal, and was subsequently employed in educational work in Melbourne, South Australia.

The Rev. Richard Carolus Stevens of St John's College, Cambridge, was licensed to the curacy of Rotherhithe by Bishop Harold Browne and remained here 1874–75.

The Rev. William Donne, M.A., of Brasenose College, Oxford, became curate of Rotherhithe Jan. 20, 1875. Mr Donne had been a Hulmeian Exhibitioner of Brasenose College, Oxford, and was ordained in 1872 by the Bishop of Oxford (Dr Mackarness) to the curacy of Summertown, Oxford, under the Rev. W. Jones, now Archbishop of Capetown and Metropolitan of South Africa.

Mr Donne's work in Rotherhithe was much valued, but was all too brief, for in 1876 the rector received a communication from the headmaster of Winchester College asking whether Mr Donne would be a suitable man to be appointed to the charge of the Winchester College mission in St Michael and All Angels', Bromley-by-Bow, so that we in Rotherhithe too soon lost an excellent curate and Bromley had Mr Donne for five years, during which he built the

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beautiful church of All Hallows, East India Docks. His friend, Bishop Walsham How, who had known him in Oswestry from his boyhood, appointed him in 1881 to the rectory of Limehouse. From 1886 till 1892 he was vicar of Great Yarmouth. In 1892 Bishop Walsham How, who had now become the first Bishop of Wakefield, appointed Mr Donne to be vicar of the cathedral and city of Wakefield, an honorary canon of Wakefield and archdeacon of Huddersfield. He is likewise an honorary chaplain to the King.

The Rev. Edmund James Morris, student of the Chichester Theological College, was ordained deacon and priest by the Bishop of Winchester and licensed to the curacy of Rotherhithe, where he worked from 1876 till 1879, when he took a curacy at St Agnes', Kennington. He is now vicar of All Saints', Weston-super-Mare.

The Rev. John Percival Golding-Bird, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, became curate of Rotherhithe in November, 1875. He had already worked in this parish as Winton diocesan home missionary of the Wilberforce Memorial mission, the headquarters of which were at that time in a house in the Paragon, Old Kent Road.

Mr Golding-Bird was ordained priest by Bishop Harold Browne on Trinity Sunday, 1876, and licensed to this curacy June 30, 1876.

Mr Golding-Bird was the son of an eminent physician in London and had great gifts and devoted himself for two years to his ministerial duties in Rotherhithe, where he was much liked and obtained considerable influence. His theological opinions were however even at that time somewhat advanced, and after two years, 1878–80, at St Thomas', Albany Road, Camberwell, and another year at St Mark's, Coburg Road, he became a member of the Society of St John the Evangelist, Cowley, and eventually was admitted into the Church of Rome.

The Rev. Christopher Tweddle, M.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, became curate of Rotherhithe in 1876. He had been a powerful athlete at Cambridge, and first worked in the diocese of Peterborough and later in the London diocese with

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the Rev. Field Flowers Goe, rector of St George's, Bloomsbury, on whose consecration to the bishopric of Melbourne in 1889 Mr Tweddle was free to undertake work in Rotherhithe.

On the death of the Rev. Robert Jones, B.A., vicar of All Saints', Rotherhithe, the rector was able to present Mr Tweddle to the charge of the vacant benefice and there seemed every prospect of his long continuing in that parish where he was greatly beloved by all. But a fatal disease attacked him and he was taken from us, as we think, all too soon. R.I.P.

The Rev. Thomas Flook, B.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, was curate of Rotherhithe from 1880 till January, 1883. He was a very diligent clergyman and much liked, but his health was far from robust, and it was thought best that he should seek work in a less trying parish. Mr Flook was for some time curate of one of the churches in Reading but he is no longer living. R.I.P.

Much excellent work was done in Rotherhithe by the Rev. Canon Boger, M.A., formerly Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford; and headmaster of St Saviour's Grammar School, Southwark, from 1859 till 1894. A very able and thoughtful preacher, his ministrations were much appreciated by the congregation of St Paul's district. He at first undertook temporary Sunday work after Mr Flook's resignation but he remained with us for six months.

The Rev. George Fenton Hamilton of Trinity College, Dublin, became curate of Rotherhithe Sept. 10, 1883.

He had previously been curate of Fermoy and afterwards an incumbent in the diocese of Cork. His work in Rotherhithe extended from 1883 to 1891 and he was greatly beloved by all. His ministrations were principally in St Paul's district, but he likewise took charge of the visitation of the shipping in the docks and on the river in connection with St Andrew's waterside church mission. To the regret of all Mr Hamilton left Rotherhithe in 1891 to undertake the chaplaincy of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union, a work involving much heavy and trying work. In 1904 he was obliged to resign this duty, owing to a breakdown in his health, and he died on Whitsunday, 1905. R.I.P.

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The Rev. Thomas York, B.D., of Queens' College, Cambridge, was for some years connected with the staff of the parish church. He had been appointed to the chaplaincy of the Workhouse and the Infirmary of the Guardians of St Olave's Union, and came to reside in Rotherhithe. The rector was thankful to avail himself of Mr York's services in the district attached to St Paul's Chapel, and he devoted much of his scanty leisure to visiting in this part of the parish, and was responsible for the Sunday Evening Services at St Paul's. He died in harness on Oct. 3, 1894, and was greatly regretted. His daughter is Mrs Richmond Johnston, the wife of the former Medical Superintendent of the Rotherhithe Infirmary. She was deeply attached to the parish church, and placed in it as a memorial of her parents a beautiful copy of Titian's great painting of the "Entombment of Christ," which hangs in the Salon Carré of the Musée du Louvre in Paris.

The Rev. Luke Harrison Blakeston, B.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, after working in this parish for some time as a layman, was ordained deacon by Dr Thorold, Bishop of Rochester, at St John's Church, Caterham, on St Barnabas' Day, June 11, 1885, and licensed to the curacy of Rotherhithe. He was ordained priest in 1886, and remained in this curacy, labouring with great zeal and acceptance and success, until on the resignation of the Rev. J. Jervis, M.A., in 1893 he was appointed by the rector to the vicarage of All Saints', and was there greatly beloved. He left Rotherhithe in 1901, to the sincere regret of all, in order that he might seek a village charge in Yorkshire for the benefit of the health of his wife and children who were pining for the fresh breezes of a country parish. Mr Blakeston exchanged benefices with the Rev. Henry Humphries, vicar of Womersley near Pontefract, a parish in the patronage of the Countess of Rosse.

The Rev. Henry Toke Scudamore, B.A., was licensed to the curacy of Rotherhithe Jan. 1, 1893, but left after nine months to take work in Leytonstone.

The Rev. Henry Leigh Murray, A.K.C., was ordained deacon by Dr T. Randall Davidson, Bishop of Rochester, in his cathedral on Trinity Sunday, 1893, and licensed to the

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curacy of Rotherhithe. Mr Murray was ordained priest in 1894 and worked very happily and successfully in this parish for nearly six years, when he left to become curate of Boughton under Blean in the Canterbury diocese. He is now vicar of Sheepstor on the borders of Dartmoor, having been presented to that parish by Sir Massey Lopes, Bart., the patron.

The Rev. Edgar Percy Higham, Theological Student of St Aidan's College, Birkenhead, was ordained deacon to this curacy by the Bishop of Rochester (Dr E. S. Talbot) on Trinity Sunday, 1899, and priest at the Trinity Ordination of the following year, and worked zealously till in 1902 he took the curacy of St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich, where he has charge of a mission district.

The Rev. Jacob Everts Reysek Polak, M.A., of the University of Cambridge, became curate of Rotherhithe in January, 1902. He is a native of Paramaribo in Dutch Guiana, but has long lived in England. He was ordained by the Bishop of Ely, Lord Alwyne Compton, to the curacy of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, Cambridge. Mr Polak has had a varied experience: for six years he was a missionary among the Indians of the Ipurina River, a tributary of the Amazon, under the South American Missionary Society, whose missions are widely spread from Tierra del Fuego in the extreme south through the vast continent of South America. Mr Polak has a remarkable gift for foreign languages, and he kindly devotes time to teaching a French class in St Mary's Girls' School. He also visits the shipping in the docks and on the river, for which work his experience as a sailor has well fitted him.

The Rev. Henry Evan Brandram Peele, M.A., of Jesus College, Cambridge, became curate of Rotherhithe in 1902. He had been curate of Bermondsey and migrated with the rector (Rev. C. D. Lawrence) to Lowestoft, where he remained until Canon Lawrence became archdeacon of Suffolk, when he offered himself for work in Rotherhithe, with which parish he had been long connected, his father having been senior partner in the firm of Brandram Brothers & Co.

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Mr Peele has devoted himself to the interests of St Paul's district of this parish, where he has set on foot various institutions for the good of the people.

Two schemes for the erection of church institutes are now in course of being carried out (June, 1905) for the better working of the two parts of the parish. The first is for the Clarence Street district, where a plot of surplus ground has been acquired from the London County Council where houses have been demolished for the approaches to the Rotherhithe and Shadwell Tunnel. The building on this site has been proceeded with during the present summer (1905) in time for the winter's campaign. The other institute is needed for St Paul's district and in default of any other site it will have to be built on part of the church garden. But although the site has not to be purchased a large sum will be required for the building itself, and contributions are earnestly asked for the purpose.

The Clergy of the District Churches.

Among the clergy who have been incumbents of the district churches the following should be mentioned here.

Holy Trinity. The Rev. J. R. Turing, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, was in charge of Holy Trinity parish for eight years, 1851–59, and was much liked by his parishioners. In 1860 he printed a volume of six sermons preached in Trinity Church on various occasions. One of these sermons was preached on November 6, 1859, the 21st anniversary of the dedication of Trinity Church, which had been consecrated on November 6, 1838.

In 1859 Mr Turing became one of the chaplains of Trinity College, Cambridge, and was minister of Great St Mary's from 1859 to 1864. He afterwards became curate of the parish of Tydd St Mary, and was perpetual curate of St Andrew's, Watford, from 1870 to 1873.

All Saints. The Rev. Robert Jones, B.A., of Jesus College,

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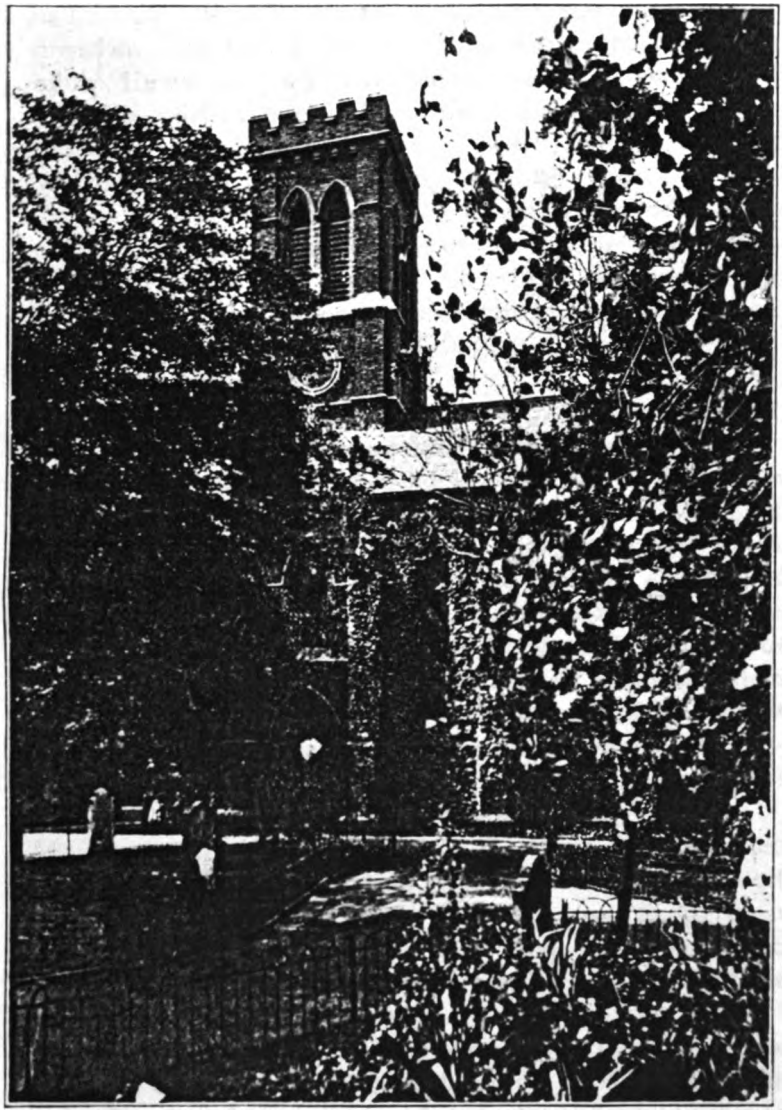

Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe.

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Oxford, was for many years incumbent of All Saints'. He had been curate of Barmouth in Wales and was an acceptable preacher. During his incumbency the parsonage house was built. He was a highly cultivated man, especially conversant with the ancient Welsh literature. He was well known throughout the Principality as a Welsh scholar, and the Welsh residents in London frequented his church.

On Mr Jones' death the Rev. Christopher Tweddle, M.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, one of the curates of the parish church, was appointed vicar of All Saints', but he did not long survive. His influence was very great, especially among young men. He was a native of Cumberland, and was buried in his own county. R.I.P.

The Rev. Dr William Delancy West, D.D., was the next vicar of All Saints'. He was a native of Rotherhithe, his father being a shipbuilder in the neighbourhood. His career was a most distinguished one. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and at St John's College, Oxford, of which Society he was a Scholar. He married Isabella, daughter of Mr Daniel Roberts, of the firm of Leamonth & Roberts, leather manufacturers, of Bermondsey. Mr West was headmaster of the Church of England School at Hackney, and while there assisted the Rev. H. H. Norris, of the Church of St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney. He was then appointed headmaster of Brentwood School, and eventually headmaster of Epsom College for the sons of medical men.

On the death of Mr Tweddle Dr West was appointed vicar of All Saints', but owing to the ill health of Mrs West he resigned the charge at the end of a year, to the great regret of all the parishioners. His eloquent sermons and spiritual instructions were highly valued by all who had the privilege of profiting by them.

He was succeeded by the Rev. John Jervis, M.A., of Queens' College, Cambridge, a favourite pupil of Dr West, who for several years laboured earnestly and successfully in All Saints' parish till 1893. The parish room was built at this time, and was used for Sunday Schools, parochial guilds, and other objects.

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Mr Jervis was eventually appointed by his college to the parish of Oakington in Cambridgeshire.

Christ Church. This church, though begun by Mr Blick, was completed by the trustees of Miss Hyndman's will, who became the patrons of the benefice. The Rev. Frederick Perry was for some years incumbent of Christ Church till his appointment in 1861 to one of the district churches of St Pancras.

The Rev. Henry Clark Mitchinson, M.A., of Clare College, Cambridge was for many years the vicar of Christ Church, and was greatly beloved and respected by a large and united congregation, over whom he had great influence. He died in 1892, greatly regretted.

Mr Mitchinson was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Martyn Bardsley, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, who was quickly recognized as a man of power. He devoted much energy to the National Schools of Christ Church parish, and obtained a valuable site for new buildings in a commanding situation in Union Road. A considerable sum of money was raised for the purpose of erecting schools for boys and girls on this site, and had he remained he would have carried this scheme to completion. But he was appointed in 1901 by the Crown to the large and important parish of Greenwich, of which he is still vicar.

The Rev. Louis Bredin Delap, M.A., of Pembroke College, Cambridge, succeeded Mr Bardsley at Christ Church in 1901; he had been curate of Penshurst and afterwards of the parish church of St James, Paddington, and has thus had great experience in parish work.

St Barnabas. This church in Plough Road has been the centre of excellent work since its foundation. The first vicar was Mr Russell, whose devoted labours are still gratefully remembered. See p. 86.

The present vicar is the Rev. Francis Swales, who had been curate of St Michael's, Woolwich. He has organized the parish with great care and earnest devotion, and has developed much new work.

The new parish of St Katharine's, Rotherhithe, has been the centre of much devoted work. Its first vicar was the

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Rev. T. C. Johnson, who was the pioneer of all the church work in that part of Rotherhithe.

The present vicar is the Rev. E. M. O'Hara Lee, who is greatly beloved, and has very large Sunday Schools and many church guilds and other useful institutions.

The Clare College Mission in Abbeyfield Road has been organized with great care. The first missioner was the Rev. A. E. King, M.A., of Clare College, who is now the vicar of St Philip's, Sydenham.

He was followed by the Rev. Andrew Amos, M.A., of Clare, who was also greatly beloved by all, and much regretted when he was appointed to the rectory of Datchworth in Hertfordshire in the gift of the college.

The Rev. J. R. Pridie, M.A., was the next Clare missioner, and his spiritual ministrations were greatly valued.

The present missioner is the Rev. J. P. Godwin, M.A., who has still further developed the work by the founding of the Men's Brotherhood and by the acquisition of large railway arches in Raymouth Road. The assistant missioner for some years has been the Rev. H. R. P. Tringham, M.A., of Clare, who has most ably seconded his chief in all good works.

Mr Tringham has recently been appointed by the rector to the vicarage of Holy Trinity, Rotherhithe.

It will be seen that the parish of Rotherhithe has been mapped out in a very complete manner for church work, and a great number of devoted men and women have been engaged in various ways in bringing home the power of the Gospel to the hearts and lives of the inhabitants.

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CHAPTER VIII.

THE PARISH CHURCH PLATE.

THE old parish church possesses a great deal of valuable plate, the gift of many good and pious men who have offered of their substance for the divine service of the altar.

A careful catalogue of these sacred vessels was made in 1900 under the direction of the Surrey Archæological Society by the Rev. T. S. Cooper of Chiddingfold near Godalming.

The following description given by him will be found of great value and interest.

ROTHERHITHE. S. MARY THE VIRGIN.

Silver Cup.—Weight, 14 oz. 11 dwt. Height, 9¼ in.

Diam. of bowl, 4 in.; of foot, 3¾ in. Depth of bowl, 5 in.

London hall-marks of 1619:—1. Leopard's head crowned, in outline. 2. In a shaped stamp a key between C M[1]. 3. Italic small *b*. 4. Lion passant.

This is a graceful cup of Elizabethan type. It has a narrow, deep, straight-sided bowl slightly splayed at the lip; a round knop divides the plain stem which has vertical ends; the upper part of the foot is rounded off into a narrow moulded band of raised oval ornamentation, and has on the edge a variation of the usual egg and tongue moulding. There is a single band of arabesques round the bowl with pendent ornament at intervals, in the centre of one of which is "Añ Dom̃ 1620."

Silver Cup.—Weight and dimensions as above.

London hall-marks of 1672:—1. Leopard's head crowned

[1] *Old English Plate*, p. 317.

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and outlined. 2. In a heart-shaped stamp W N, a pellet below. 3. Black letter capital ℬ. 4. Lion passant.

This is a copy of the older cup. The bowl is inscribed: "Ex Dono Mathæi Crouch huiꝰ Parochiæ Rothorith geñ Qui 20° die Augusti Anno Dom 1672 et Ætat: suæ 51 Obijt." Above are the donor's arms, on a pale, three crosses pattée, within a bordure. Crest, a lamb couchant.

Silver Paten.—Weight, 12 oz. 15 dwt. Diam., 6¾ in. Height, 2¾ in.

London hall-marks of 1632:—1. Leopard's head crowned and outlined. 2. Indistinct. 3. Italic small *p*. 4. Lion passant.

This is a large paten on a foot. In the sunk centre of the plate is engraved a seeded rose, with this inscription in pricked lettering encircling it: "The Gift of Aron Woodcock." There is a wreath of laurel leaves on the rim, and a band of raised oval ornament, similar to that on the foot of the earlier cup, round the stem.

Silver Paten.—Weight, 7 oz. 5 dwt. Diam., 5⅛ in. Height, 1¼ in.

London hall-marks of 1639:—1 and 4, as above. 2. In a round stamp T I between pellets, some object between the letters. 3. Court-hand B.

Plain, raised on low stem and foot.

Silver Paten.—Weight, 7 oz. 5 dwt. Diam., 5¾ in. Height, 1 1/16 in.

London hall-marks, arms and inscription as on the cup of 1672.

Silver Paten.—Weight, 23 oz. 13 dwt. Diam., 10½ in. Height, 3½ in.

London hall-marks of 1715:—1. Britannia. 2. In an oval stamp L O, linked letters, the mark of Matthew Lofthouse[1]. 3. Court-hand U. 4. Lion's head erased.

This is a large paten with thick stem. It is inscribed, "S[t] Mary Rotherith. This, with a smaller salver, was the gift of Cap[t] Plaford Clarke Anno 1716." The donor's arms are in the centre, viz., a bend engrailed. There is a wreath on the rim similar to that on the paten of 1632.

[1] *Old English Plate*, p. 337.

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Silver Paten.—Weight, 12 oz. Diam., 6¾ in. Height, 2⅞ in.

London hall-marks of 1715, as above.

This is like the other, but not so large, with the same arms and inscription, except that "larger" is substituted for "smaller."

Silver Flagon.—Weight stamped on, 55 oz. 4 dwt.

Only the maker's mark legible, viz., in a plain shield R S, a pellet above and below.

A large tankard-shaped flagon, with flat cover. Inscribed, "The Gift of Captaine Thomas Stone ye younger Aug. 9th 1666," which is about the date of the flagon. Arms, a two-headed eagle displayed; crest, the same on an Esquire's helmet.

Two silver Covers for the Cups.—

Inscribed, "Sept 12 . 1713." This is about the date of these covers; the hall-marks are too much worn to decipher.

Silver Alms Bason.—Weight, 18 oz. 4 dwt. Diam., 10 in.

London hall-marks of 1703:—1 and 4, as on the patens of 1715. 2. 𝔅a black letter, an arrow-head below, in a heart-shaped stamp. 3. Court-hand H.

Inscribed, "The Gift of Mrs Sarah Seaman Widdow of Capt Robert Seaman of the Parish of Rotherhith 1703."

Two silver Alms Plates.—Weight stamped on, 21 oz. 4 dwt. and 20 oz. 16 dwt. respectively. Diam., 10⅛ in.

London hall-marks of 1745:—1. Leopard's head crowned, in shaped shield. 2. In a shaped stamp I E, script letters. 3. Roman small k. 4. Lion passant.

Inscribed, "The Gift of Capt Thomas Bayly to the Church of St Mary Rotherhith, 1745."

Silver Salver.—Diam., 11¾ in.

Probably foreign, of the early part of the seventeenth century.

This beautiful salver, which was certainly not originally intended for sacred purposes, is richly and profusely ornamented with repoussé work. The centre of the salver is raised in the same manner as a rose-water bowl; round this are six circular compartments, three of which are filled in with couchant animals, a stag, a hare, and a goat, the rest with scroll ornament; outside and around this raised portion is a kind of

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Silver Alms-dish, of foreign work.

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cable pattern arranged in spiral lobes. On the rim are the heads of winged cherubs and lions' masks alternately spaced, with a scroll ornament in which fish appear between. It is altogether a fine piece of plate, but somewhat the worse for wear.

Silver Spoon.—

Hall-marks illegible, except the maker's, which is E B under a crown in a shaped stamp; the mark of Edward Bennett, entered 1731[1]. Date about 1740.

This is a plain rat-tail spoon, with a portion of the bowl perforated. On the back of the handle are the initials $_{S}{}^{R}{}_{M}$ and the sacred monogram with cross and nails in rays.

Beadle's Staff.—

The top is silver-gilt, surmounted by the effigy of the Virgin and Holy Child, and is dated 1808.

In use at S. Paul's Chapel-of-Ease is a well-designed small *silver-gilt Cup*, together with *two Patens*, all modern.

[1] *Old English Plate*, 6th Ed., p. 425.

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CHAPTER IX.

THE PARISH REGISTERS.

THE registers of St Mary, Rotherhithe, date back to 1555 (1 Elizabeth). They are contained in 41 volumes, and have been very carefully kept. From 1674 to 1854 they have been indexed at great cost of time and labour; and the indices, which are exceedingly accurate, greatly facilitate the search for entries required by various persons for antiquarian or other reasons.

The earliest volume, 1555–1630, is of a long and narrow oblong shape, of vellum leaves: it contains baptisms, marriages, and burials, written in a clear hand. The opening page commences thus:

ANNO 15 Baptizings 56

John Hunte Baptized the first of August
Joane Hogge Baptized the first of August
Brian Lack and John Lack the xvth of October
Agatha Langley the xviijth daie of October
Marmaduke Wrighte the first day of January
Walter Spuddle the second daie of ffebruary
Thomas Woodcock the xiijth daie of ffebruary
Edward Harding the xvijth daie of ffebruary
John Wynkles the xvijth daie of March
Marmaduke Pynder the xxjst daie of March

The year's baptisms numbered eleven, in ten entries, of which 9 were boys and only 2 girls.

In 1557 there were only nine baptisms.

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A corner house in old Rotherhithe.

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15 Burials 56

Thomas Lobly Buried the xxxth of July
Robart Dyet the xth daie of August
Susan Purser the xvth of August
Steven Bray the xvith of August
Martha Dyet the xxiiijth of August
Ann Lynge the first of September
Ales a Nurse childe the ijnd of September
Margaret Chicket the vijth of September
Julian Welden the xjth of September
Daniell Dawe the xijth of September
Joan Hogg the vith of October
Edeth Richardson the viijth of October
Jeames Cullam the xvith of October
Briand Lack the xviijth of October
John Lack the xxijnd of October
Jarman Clarke the xxiijrd of October
Edeth Hurste the xxvth of October
Katherin Hansom the xxvth of October
Grace Harrys the vijth of November
Andrew Nelson the first of December
Margaret Wakefelde the xiijth of December
Elizabeth Horner the xvjth of December
Aristotle ffisher the xviijth of December
Ales Dudley the xxvijth of December
Elizabeth Moy the viijth of January
Margaret Elmer the xxvth of January
Thomas Steven the xxviijth of ffebruary
John Wrighte the xxist of ffebruary
Edward Master the xxist of ffebruary

Twenty-nine deaths in the year 1556 as against eleven births!

Joane Hogge had been baptized 1st August.

Brian and John Lack had been baptized the 15th October.

15 Mariages 55

Thomas Austen to Joane Smith the vith of January
Robert Symons to Katherin Brookes the iijrd of May 1556
William Erbike to Ales Osterne the iiijth of July

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William Pinder to Joane Richardson the vijth of July
John Klies to Agnes Parker the xxixth of October
Markes Symons to Julian Byrne the xvijth of January
Thomas Harris to Cysile Rutter the xviijth of January

Six weddings in the year 1556.

On the closing pages of this volume are these lines:

To the Churchwardens
of Redderith

I do thinck reson you give y^{r} Clerk for the writing of such matters of Christning burial & Mariages as are entered herein 40 shillings & yf you lack money to ſatisfie him I wold have you make a siaſement for it in such order as you have done for the reparation of y^{r} church heretofore

primo Aprilis 1601

Thomas Ridley.

Re^{d} by me Giles Wrighte Clarke of Redderith of M^{r} Kellet one of the Churchwardens for the wrighting of this Regester Booke according to the appoyntment of the Ordenary M^{r} Doctor Ridley the some of ffortie Shillings I say rec. the sixth day of July 1601 the some of } xl *s.*

By me Giles Wrighte.

On opposite page:

1655	63 — 63
69	30 — 40
86	33 — 23

William Baldwin
Rec^{t} of Rothreff
1690
Wretteing by his Son W^{m} Baldwin

1655
1589
66

1655

This Book ded once belong too M^{r}

1655
69
86

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Volume II covers the period 1630–1673, a longer and thicker book than the preceding one and the entries are in Latin on vellum leaves.

On the first leaf are these words:

p. 1. Anno 1630 Baptizings

John filius Johannis Burre bapt. 5 Decembris
Joseph fil. Henrici Bacon bapt. 12 Decembris
Sarah fil. Rogeri Reed bapt. 12 Decembris
ffraunces fil. Johannis Crosfield bapt. 19 Decembris
Marie fil. Thomæ Burley bapt. 19 Decembris

* * * *

In 1642, October 16, begins a new handwriting.

In September, 1653, begins a list of births, baptisms having become of less account under the Commonwealth. The entries are still in Latin, but instead of Baptizings we have now:

Anno: 1653. Birthes:

William fil. William et Margaret Greene
Borne September 29th

This continued until once more at the Restoration of the King and the return of Church ordinances, we read:

1660 & 1661 Baptizings 1660 & 1661

Elizabeth fil. William & Joshuan Cox bapt. Octob. 4

Still for a considerable number of entries only births are recorded; it would be long before the Sacramental system of the Church would prevail over Puritan neglect.

In 1664 we have another change in the handwriting, a very clear bold hand.

In 1666 this in turn gives way to another and more archaic type.

The burials follow in due course.

In October, 1653, an entry is made in these words:

Surry . Whereas Robert [?] Aoyte [? Coyte] is by ye generall Suffradge of the Pish of Rethriff chosen Register for the said Pish

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in pursuance of a late Act of Parliam^t^ for marriages, births and burialls and hath likewise taken the oath before me directed by the said Act...I doe therefore hereby confirme him in the said office of Register for the said Pish Witness my hand y^is^ 10^th^ of October 1653

Rob^t^ Houghton one of y^e^ Justices of peace for y^e^ said County of Surry.

In Volume II the marriages 1630–1673 occupy only twelve pages.

Volume III is from 1674 to 1698, comprising 490 marriages in 19 pages.

Christnings fol^s^ 20 to 135 (1674 to 1695) and at the end of the book 265—282 (1695 to 1698)

Burialls from fol. 136 to 265 (1674 to 1698).

In Volume IV is contained the period 169$\frac{8}{9}$ to 1721.

The burials are occasionally signed, e.g.

p. 180	Ric^d^ Wright John ffindall
p. 181	John Pierson Curate
	Ric^d^ Wright John ffindall
Marriages p. 30	John Pierson Curate
	Jos. Gallopp
	Ric^d^ Wright

Mr Pierson's handwriting is good and clear and he has made the entries.

In Volume V is contained the period 1722 to 1733.

The signature of John Pierson, curate, is continued on each page until June, 1726, after which time the register is signed by Edw. Lovell, D.D., rector, and the entries appear to be all in his handwriting, and they are often very illegible, whereas the entries up to that date were well and clearly written. There are two intervals, from November, 1730, to January, 1730–1, and from October, 1732, to January, 1732–3, during which the entries are clearly written; but once more Dr Lovell's handwriting appears, till June 1, 1733, when the beautiful writing of M. Audley, curate, first occurs.

In Volume VI is contained the period from August 1,

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1733, to 1764. A few of the entries in this volume are in Dr Lovell's handwriting, but Matthew Audley has written the great majority until May, 1741, when the book is signed by Thomas Curling, rector. But M. Audley takes up the registration again in March, 1741, and continues till the end of the volume.

In July, 1760, the entries of burials begin to record the profession of the deceased person, e.g.

Samuel Farrant Attorney at Law

and a month later the abode, e.g.

Mary Thompson	.....	Gillam's Court
Elizabeth George	Sailor's Child	Two Necked Swan
William Drover	Taylor	Boatswain's Call
John Howton		Rose and Rummer
Francis Hawkins	Shipwright's child	Behind the Meeting

In Volume VII are contained the marriages and publications of banns for the period 1754–1765. This book was bought of Jno. Leapidge, stationer, under the piazzas of the Royal Exchange, Cornhill, London. The entries of marriage are now more fully made in a set form, e.g.

Edward Hollinske of this Parish and Elisabeth Morgan of the same Parish were married in this Church by Banns with consent of parents this twenty second Day of April in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty four

by me M. Audley Curate

Stephen Ogle was parish clerk at this time, and he was also master of the charity school. He died in February, 1787. The first marriage solemnized by Thos. Negus, rector, was on March 12, 1758.

His own wedding is recorded in this register book, p. 152:

Thomas Negus, Doctor in Divinity, of this parish and Sarah Margaretta Johnson of St Sepulchre London were married in this church by licence this twentieth day of June one thousand seven hundred and sixty five

by me Mark[1] Sodor and Mann curate pro hac vice

[1] This was Dr Mark Hildesley, Bishop of Sodor and Man 1755 to 1772. He succeeded Bishop Wilson. His great work was that he gave his Manx people the whole Bible translated into their own language.

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This marriage was solemnized between us, Tho. Negus
Sarah Margaretta Johnson
In the presence of Henry Hitchcroft, jun^{r}
M. Audley
Tho. Corlett

In Volume VIII are contained the marriages and publications of banns during the period from 1765 to 1785.

The first entry signed by Thos. Cokayne, rector, was on May 15, 1767.

The marriage of Jesse Curling B^{r} and Elisabeth Hallum Sp^{r} both of this parish is recorded on June 16, 1770, the witnesses being Sam. Gillam and Henry Curling.

The marriage of Richard Addams B^{r} of this parish and Mary Curling Sp^{r} of Ramsgate in the county of Kent on Aug. 12, 1773, is also recorded.

The last entry in the handwriting of Matthew Audley in this volume is on March 28, 1784. He had served as curate under four rectors—Dr Lovell, Dr Curling, Dr Negus, and Mr Cokayne—from 1733 to 1773, a period of forty years. But in the next register book his entries are continued till June 27, 1784, under Dr Myddelton, in addition to the four rectors above mentioned. He was also Afternoon Lecturer.

In Volume IX are contained the entries of baptisms and burials from 1765 to Dec., 1792. Mr Audley's entries are continued till June, 1784. He had therefore been curate of Rotherhithe for over fifty years under five rectors.

On Oct. 28, 1765, is recorded the burial of Dr Negus:

Thomas Negus D.D. Parsonage House buried at Lee Kent Rector

1773 Samuel Atkinson Esq. from Croydon 72

1782 John Hindley Gentleman from Old Gravel Lane 46

1784 Elizabeth Wife of Robert Williams East India Company's Surveyor Paradise Row 68

1785 Thomas Spredbrow son of Thomas & Jane Warren Gentleman Paradise Street 1

Anthony Son of Charles White Peruke-maker King Street

May Turner Wife of John Turner Peruke M^{r} Lower Queen Street 39

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1786 William Ayles Son of William Punnett Shipwright near Noah's Ark
1787 Henry Mills Timber Merchant near the Pageants 72

On Dec. 29, 1784:

Prince Lee Boo buried from Capt[n] Willson's Paradise Row 20

Several deceased persons are described as Farmers.

1789 Samuel Short Sexton 80
1790 Joseph Hall Nightbeadle near Globe Stairs 42
Mary wife of Robert Chignell Bellman 64
Edward Bayly Night Beadle Elephant Lane 55

Clarence Street first mentioned Oct. 20, 1790.
Swan Lane first mentioned June 8, 1791.

In Volume X are contained the entries of baptisms and burials from 1792 to 1810.

From Sept. 11, 1796, the entries are made and signed by Robert Myddelton, D.D., rector; those previously having been made and signed by John Sherman, curate.

Dr Myddelton had for his curate his son John Myddelton, B.D., who became Registrar.

Mary Wife of John Clark Packthread-Spinner Swan (Lane) 42
Thomas Best Paradise Street a superannuated Master in the Navy 83
1793 July 13 Samuel Gillam Surgeon near Rotherhithe Stairs 74

Adam Place occurs for the first time Jan. 19, 1794.
Eve Place " " "

1794 Henry Tillott S. of Henry Tillot of the foundry[1]

Baker's Buildings first occurs in May, 1794.
Adam Street first occurs in August, 1794.
Neptune Street first occurs November 20, 1794.

1795 Jan. 9 Lewis Ceuche French Emigrant Paradise Street 26
Feb. 3 John Gray Surgeon Princes Street 64

[1] i.e. the Iron Foundry near the King and Queen in Rotherhithe Street, afterwards owned by Messrs Howard and Ravenhill.

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1796 Feb. 21 Elizabeth Wife of John Lenham Gent Church Street 40
Oct. 9 Robert Jackson De La Cour Mariner Queen Street 25

Deptford Road occurs for the first time Nov. 9, 1796.

1797 Feb. 12 John Airson Surgeon Paradise Street 33
May 26 Eliza Townsend D. of James Saward Gentleman Princes Street
1798 May 1 Eliza Goldsmith D. in Law of ... Roberts Surgeon Princes Street 10
27 Elizabeth D. of Henry Shiers Attorney Adam Street
July 20 Eleanor D. of James Grice Anchor Smith Rotherhithe St:
29 John Nowne Sail maker Paradise St: 65
1799 Aug. 4 Jehoiachin Smith Gentleman Paradise St 64
19 James Hill Gent: from the Royal Oak Deptford R[d] 56
1800 Jan. 9 Henry S. of Henry Crosby Robe maker Silver St.
Apr. 18 John Davis Gent. Vestry Clerk Paradise Row 76
May 22 James S. of Rich[d] Garth Mathem[l] Instru[t] Maker near Kings Stairs
June 13 George S. of George Brown Surgeon Princes St 1
Nov. 20 John Kell Surgeon Paradise St [of a brain fever] 30
1801 Apr. 21 Edward Howe Son of William Gaitskell Surgeon Paradise Street
July 9 John Batow Serv[t] to Capt[n] M[c]Donald Paradise St. 25
1802 Jan. 16 Caroline D. of Thomas Dunn a Planter Princes Street 2
18 James S. of William Dixon Limner Trinity Street
Mar. 13 Samuel Meeke Esq[r] from St Pancras Middlesex 64
Sept. 4 Joseph S. of John Younger Surgeon Lower Queen St.
1803 Mar. 6 Charles Umfreville Attorney Adam St. 76

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July 19 Alexander S. of Alexander Brown Lieut[t] of Marines Randalls Causeway
Oct. 1 John Hancock Gent: Paradise Row 37
9 Joshua Garrett Attorney Deptford Road 28

Kenning's Buildings occurs for the first time January 8, 1804.

1804 Feb. 9 Peter S. of Peter Murdock Timber measurer Deptford Road 2
June 18 Caleb Pearson Capt[n] in the Army Neptune St. 60
Aug. 9 Elizabeth Wife of Thomas Wallace Gentleman Paradise Row 68

York Street first occurs Oct. 24, 1804.

Dec. 5 Rebecca Wife of John Curling Gent. Princes St[t] 74
10 Richard David Son of David Blair Gentleman Adam Street

Stringer's Row appears first Jan. 2, 1805.

1805 May 21 Charles Son of Charles Carter Gentleman Princes Street 15

Cross Street, King Street (or Queen Street), occurs first Aug. 25, 1805.

1806 Jan. 31 Elizabeth D. of Matthew Nottingham Surveyor Lucas Street 1

New Street[1] occurs November 8, 1805.
Albion Street occurs first March 23, 1806.
Dodd's Place occurs first March 26, 1806.
"On the Level" occurs first April 9, 1806.
Slater's Court, Adam Street, occurs June 11, 1806.

July 11 Archibald Smith Gentleman near China Hall Deptford Road 80
Aug. 17 Mary Ann D. of David Beatson Shipbreaker near the Canal
" Elizabeth Agnes D. of David Beatson Shipbreaker near the Canal

[1] New Street, Adam Street, is now called Hatteraick Street.

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Bickley Row first occurs 22 Aug. 1806.

Prospect Place occurs Apr. 19, 1807.

Sept. 11 Esther D. of William Kemp Gentleman Prospect Place 1

1807 July 6 Richard Hawes[1] Parish Clerk Church Street 56

Sept. 2 Elizabeth D. of Arthur Ormsby Gentleman Paradise Row

The Brickfield occurs Nov. 26, 1807.

"Police Officers" are mentioned about this time (were they river Police?).

Manor Row, Deptford Road, occurs Jan. 24, 1808, and the Miller's name[2] was Nathaniel Deye Willis, whose burial is recorded.

1808 Feb. 16 Joseph Hayne Esq[r] Princes Street (Bell away[3]) 66

Apr. 23 Alfred S. of James Saward Attorney Princes Street

Oct. 21 John Polglass Permit Writer King Street 70

Surry Place (in Deptford Road) first occurs Nov. 20, 1808.

Dec. 14 Charles Rich Esq[r] from Limehouse 77

Essex Place near the Horse Ferry first occurs July 7, 1809.

Rogues Lane occurs Aug. 25, 1809.

Dodd's Place first occurs March 14, 1810.

China Hall Fields occurs Aug. 27, 1810.

Orange Place, Deptford Road, occurs Sept. 23, 1810.

Slate Buildings, Adam Street, occurs Dec. 22, 1810.

In Volume XI, though it is of the same large size as its predecessor, the entries are only of two years, baptisms and burials from January 1, 1811, to December, 1812.

The greater part of the book is blank. The reason for this was that from this period the Church Registers were kept in an authorized printed form.

[1] Richard Cooper succeeded him as Parish Clerk.

[2] i.e. of the *Manor Wind-Mill*.

[3] i.e. the Great Bell was to be tolled for him.

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We meet with a few new street names, e.g. Lower Neptune Street, showing that Neptune Street had by this time been extended. The Seven Islands are now having dwelling-houses erected upon them. Riches Place, Deptford Road, occurs in June, 1811. Commercial Dock is mentioned for the first time in August, 1811. John Place, Cow Court, occurs in April, 1812. Adam's Gardens first occurs April 27, 1812. Somerset Place first occurs Dec. 3, 1812.

1812 June 13 Withers Kemp S. of Ebenezer Randell Surgeon Prince's Street

In Volume XII are contained the marriages from Feb. 13, 1804, to Dec. 25, 1812.

The Rev. John Lake, A.M., was curate at this time and he was likewise a Surrogate of the Worshipful John Sayer, A.M., Commissary in and for the parts of Surrey.

The Rev. Henry White was the afternoon Lecturer of the Parish Church.

This volume like the last is only half filled with entries.

With Volume XIII we begin the printed registers issued by the King's Printers "in pursuance of the Act of Parliament 52 Geo. III, Cap. 146" (passed July 28, 1812).

This volume contains the burials from Jan. 1813 to Dec. 31, 1819. Many of the entries state that the officiating Ministers were the Rev. Mr Bird, the Rev. Mr Flockton and the Rev. Mr Jones, but the Rev. John Lake was still the curate.

On May 19, 1813, a man was buried from "Legorn Alley." Baltic Place, Deptford Road, occurs Dec. 3, 1813.

1814 Feb. 16 Elizabeth Daughter of Benjamin Bishop Stone Sawyer Manor House Deptford Road 27

May 22 Sarah Daughter of Frederick Daniell Caulker Providence Row near The Albion

1815 May 20 Lucy Sarah Frances Daughter of John Dudman Gent Goldsworthy Terrace

Harrison's Buildings, Deptford Road, occurs Sept. 17, 1815 The Deptford Road is gradually being built along.

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The rector's death is recorded in 1815:

Rev^{d} D^{r} Myddelton Rector died at Gwaynynog on Nov^{r} 28 buried at Denbigh.

Lemon Valley near St Helena occurs first on Dec. 24, 1816.

Stroud's Buildings, March 31, 1816.

Steel's Buildings, Lower York Street, Sept. 15, 1816.

Cape of Good Hope, Lower Deptford Road, Sept. 15, 1816.

The first funeral taken by the Rev. James Speare, the new rector, was on Dec. 8, 1816.

Mestaers (or Mastaers, or Maestaer's, or Mestairs) Buildings[1] occurs for the first time on Dec. 20, 1816, when Martha Bennett, widow, aged 101, was buried from that Court.

1817 Jan. 31 Frederick son of Robert John Halbert Attorney near Elephant Stairs 14

Aug. 14 Alfred son of Samuel Travers Secretary to the Grand Surrey Canal Company Deptford

1819 Jan. 1 Henry King son of John Fowler Leather Dresser near the Dock House

Jan. 13 James son of James Burne Gardener Bone's Garden, Level 1

Feb. 21 Hannah Daughter of George Baines Engineer Stroud's Cottage Trinity Street 4

NOTE. The total of burials recorded for the years 1813 to 1819 inclusive is 2370. But there are some blank spaces and a number of funerals were brought here from other parishes. Reckoning the deaths of resident parishioners as 2300 we have an average for the five years of 460. The population of Rotherhithe at this time was probably about 12,500.

Read's Passage, July 8, 1818. Skinner's Rents and Bryant's Buildings occur at this time; also The Broadway, Cobourg Street, Sept. 17, 1819. Callender's Garden, Nov. 14. Norfolk Place, Nov. 28. Pitt's Cottage, Dec. 19, and Screw Post Row.

[1] This was the property of Peter Mestairs, Esq., a Shipbuilder.

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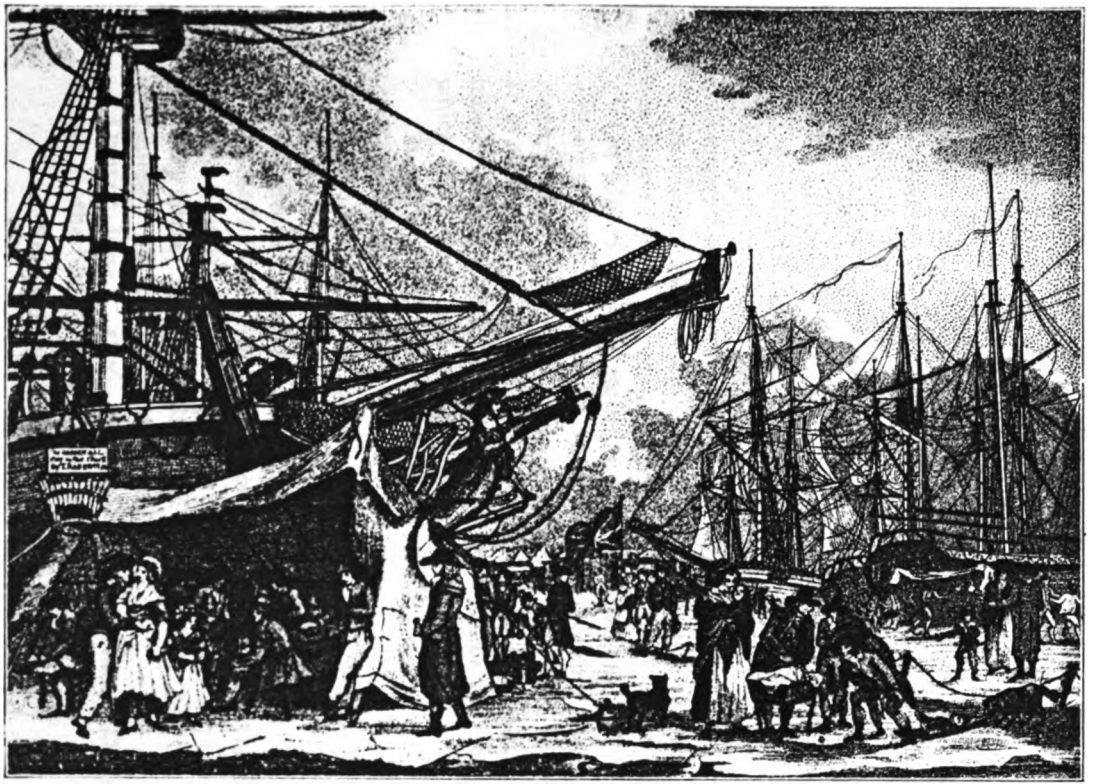

A VIEW of the THAMES, from ROTHERHITHE STAIRS,
during the frost in 1789.

Painted by G. Samuel, and engraved by W. Birch, Enamel Painter.
Published August 1789 by W. Birch, Hampstead Heath, and sold by T. Thornton, Southampton Street, Covent Garden.

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But Allard's Hill ceased to appear after August 22, 1817. It had for very many years been the home of Shipwrights, Mariners, Caulkers and others of like occupation. It probably became so dilapidated from age that it had to be pulled down. No living person has been able to remember where it was.

In Volume XIV are contained the burials from Jan., 1820, to July 30, 1826 (2400 entries). They are chiefly signed by the Rev. Mr Lincoln.

Claremont Row occurs for the first time Aug. 22, 1820, but it had been erected 1818 as appears on a stone tablet.

Oak Place likewise occurs for the first time Sept. 3, 1820.

Half-penny Hatch occurs Oct. 13, 1820.

George Street occurs first March 30, 1821.

St Mary's Place occurs first Dec. 5, 1821. This is the new name given to Spread Eagle Court.

On March 2, 1822, appears for the first time the handwriting of the Rev. Dr Hardwicke, who became curate of Rotherhithe, apparently replacing the Rev. T. A. Lincoln. It is not until July 31, 1822, that Dr Hardwicke officiated himself; but he wrote up the entries from March 2 of burials which Mr Lincoln had left unregistered.

Church Passage occurs Nov. 6, 1822.

Thetford Place Jan. 17, 1823.

Bond Street May 13, 1824.

Augusta Place (Deptford Road) June 2, 1824.

Providence Island Jan. 9, 1825.

Edward's Place (Adam's Gardens) occurs first July 31, 1825.

East Country Dock Aug. 26, 1825.

Mary Street Sept. 17, 1825.

Galley Wall Road May 28, 1826.

Dantzic June 5, 1826. But this does not mean Dantzic Wharf, Rotherhithe Street, for the entry is

Reichard Tüs Schultz (drowned) Dantzic

In Volume XV are contained the burials from July 30, 1826, to June 1, 1832 (2400 − 16 = 2384 entries).

Sarah Cottage occurs Jan. 23, 1827. It is in Swan Lane.

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Walker Place occurs March 22, 1827. These are the houses in Deptford Road built by Mr Walker, and the first burial is that of Mary Walker, spinster, aged 86.

1828 Feb. 28 Thomas Collins Tunnel man drowned in the Tunnel 28

This was when the water broke in during the construction of the Thames Tunnel.

Mar. 14 Jeptha Cook was also drowned in the Tunnel 28
May 25 Isabella D[r] of Richard Wright Surgeon Platform 2
1829 Apr. 24 Ito Bring Mariner A native of New Zealand 22

Sedger's Buildings occur Sept. 15, 1829.

In Volume XVI are contained the burials from June 5, 1832, to Nov. 24, 1837 (2400 entries).

Mary Street occurs first July 29, 1833.

Trafalgar Place occurs first Dec. 3, 1833.

On April 12, 1835, the first entry is made by the new rector, the Rev. Edward Blick, and from that time except once Dr Hardwicke ceased to officiate.

The name of Francis Blick, rector of Walton-on-Trent, occurs as officiating on May 27, 1835.

On Nov. 18, 1836, the Rev. William Pike Hargood Hutchinson is acting as assistant curate of Rotherhithe.

In Volume XVII are contained the burials from Nov. 26, 1837, to March 3, 1844 (2400 entries).

In Nov., 1840, are three entries of clergymen officiating at burials: the Rev. John Johnstone, Minister of All Saints'; the Rev. J. C. Saunders, Minister of Christ Church; and the Rev. W. Hutchinson, Minister of Trinity Church; these three new parishes having been constituted within five years of Mr Blick's becoming rector.

1841 Feb. 18 Martin Hatherly Boatswain of the Dreadnought Hospital Ship Rotherhithe Street 49
1842 May 5 William Nowne Sexton Church Street 67

The Rev. R. Jones, Minister of All Saints', officiated at a burial, Nov. 23, 1842.

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1842 Dec. 21 William Curling Gent[n] Hitchin Hertfordshire 81
William Curling Offg. Min[r].

1843 Mar. 8 John Wing Barmby Son of John, East Cheap City 6

Clare Hall Cottages first occur Dec. 10, 1843. They were built upon the Glebe.

Midway Place first occurs Jan. 21, 1844, but it must have been an old street.

In Volume XVIII are contained the burials from March, 1844, to Jan. 6, 1851 (2400 entries).

Hambly Place (Deptford Road) first occurs Dec. 9, 1847.

The Rev. Philip Bland and the Rev. R. G. Foot appear as assistant curates on Dec. 22, 1847.

1849 Feb. 10 Elizabeth Ann Wing East Cheap 79
Aug. 18 Jonas Heydelbach Wharfinger Platfonn Wharf Rotherhithe St[t] 66
Sept. 15 Everilda Bracken Spinster Rectory Church Street 47

This lady died during the outbreak of cholera, when 363 deaths occurred from July 1st to Oct. 4th.

1850 Oct. 11 Elizabeth Curling Widow Hitchin Herts 82
Rev. W. Curling Offg. Minister

In Volume XIX are contained the burials from Jan. 6, 1851, to 1855.

It is an exceptionally large register, with space for 3200 names, but owing to the closing of the churchyards of the metropolis April 30, 1855, only 188 of the 400 pages in the volume are filled.

The curates at this time were the Rev. Charles Clark and the Rev. Charles Hind.

St Paul's Lane and Robinson's Place occur in 1851, the former being so named from St Paul's Chapel-of-ease which was lately erected, its former name having been Ram Alley.

Slipper's Place, Swan Island, occurs April 6, 1851.

The Rev. James Wilson is curate of Rotherhithe Dec. 31, 1851, and the Rev. Mr Turing Minister of Trinity Church, April 26, 1852.

New Commercial Street occurs first Aug. 11, 1854.

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In 1854 the cholera again raged in Rotherhithe; from Aug. 2 till Oct. 29 285 deaths are recorded.

After the final closing of the churchyard and burying-ground six interments have been made by special permission from H. M. Secretary of State.

On July 2, 1867, Edward Blick, rector of Rotherhithe, was interred in a brick grave at the east end of the chancel, the officiating clergy being the two curates, James Moore and Ambrose Morris, and a former curate, the Rev. James Wilson, Incumbent of Holy Trinity.

The last interment is that of Ralph Walker, aged 84, by the present rector on May 25, 1878.

In Volume XX are contained the baptisms from Jan. 1, 1813, to Sept. 28, 1817 (about 2370 entries), in a printed book. A few extracts are appended.

1813 May 17 Ellen daughter of Henry Beeby & Catharine Eilbeck Commercial Dock Superintendent

1817 Mar. 3 Frederick Josiah S. of Josiah Ferdinand & Eliza Reddie Clarence St Organist

July 9 William Kendrew S. of John & Ann Terry Lewthwaite Prince's Street Schoolmaster

The Rev. H. G. White, afternoon Lecturer, signs the register, July 13, 1817.

In Volume XXI are contained the baptisms from Oct. 1, 1817, to Aug. 11, 1822 (about 2380 entries).

1818 Apr. 3 Nathaniel Waters S. of Jacob Waller & Julia Smith Paradise Place Purser R. Navy

June 16 Richard S. of George & May Carlis Near the sign of the Jolly Caulker Gold Beater

Nov. 13 Priscilla Prichard S. of David & Jenny Hitt (? Ilitt) Waters Commercial Docks Accountant (became afterwards the Superintendent)

1819 Mar. 24 Prudence Sarah D. of John & Sarah Allen Lucas Street Solicitor

Apr. 14 Emma D. of William & Ann Robinson Albion St. Schoolmaster Royal Navy

May 9 John Steward S. of John & Hannah Tabram King Street Gentleman

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June 4 Marian D. of Richard Lowne & Mary Ann Bayfield Lavender Lane Gentleman
6 Jennet Maria D. of Robert & Maria Cox Lower York Street Gentleman
Aug. 13 Alfred Frederick S. of James & Elizabeth Ann Saward Paradise Row Attorney
Oct. 27 Eliza Ubsdell D. of John & Elizabeth George Paradise Street Gentleman
31 Mary D. of Archibald & Mary Johnston Seven Islands Gentleman
Dec. 8 Charles Frederick S. of Samuel James & Margaret Harriet Tibbs Princes Street Gentleman
24 Eliza D. of Silas Kemball[1] & Margaret Randall Cook Paradise Row Schoolmaster
1820 May 9 George Dundas S. of the Rev[d] Robert & Agnes Jones Rectory House D.D. baptized by Rev. R. Jones D.D.

Dr Jones was apparently at the time curate-in-charge, occupying the Rectory House in the absence of the Rev. J. G. Hewett the rector.

May 24 Georgianna Maria D. of John Marlett & Jane Maria Boddy Trinity Street Gentleman
Oct. 25 Caroline D. of Henry & Harriott Fraser. Broadway Master in the Royal Navy
Nov. 5 George Luck S. of Peter William Campbell & Mary Ann Harvey Lower Queen Street Gentleman
22 Charlotte Catharine Vaughan D. of Edward Vaughan & Charlotte Chowne Paradise Street Gentleman
Dec. 7 Edward S. of Edward & Susannah Brewman Hawks Rotherhithe Street Ship Builder
29 Eliza D. of Henry William & Catherine Billinghurst Paradise Row Gentleman
1821 Mar. 21 Emily Ann D. of James & Elizabeth Fell Paradise Street Gentleman

[1] Mr Cook was largely employed by Mr Blick in making the indexes to the Parish Registers and in drawing up leases of the Glebe land.

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July 6 John[1] S. of John & Charlotte Hannah Mews Rotherhithe Street Ship Wright

1822 Feb. 27 Henry Mark S. of Joseph & Elizabeth Sampson Hanover Street Gentleman (3 children christened at the same time)

Mar. 27 Adolphus Frederick S. of Thomas & Betsey Beech[2] Rotherhithe Street Ship-breaker

In Volume XXII are contained the baptisms from Aug. 11, 1822, to April 29, 1827 (2400 entries), which are entirely in the handwriting of the Rev. Thos. Hardwicke.

1823 May 7 Fanny Isabella D. of Thomas John & Elizabeth Ley Trinity Street Lieut. R.N.

Aug. 20 John S. of John & Sarah Beatson Rotherhithe St. Ship Breaker

1824 Mar. 21 Emma Jane D. of Robert & Sarah Jane Hall[3] Cross Street Carver

Apr. 21 Edward George Son of Benjamin & Ann Boynton Goldsworthy Place Lieut. R.N.

1825 Born Sept. 28th 1822 baptized at Bruges Jan. 11, 1824 Henry James Son of James & Mary Anne Stephens British Residents at Bruges French Flanders Hotel Keeper William Smyth A.B. acting British Chaplain at Bruges

1826 Mar. 26 Charles Carter Son of Thomas[4] & Harriet Stephenson Simson Princes St. Gentleman

Sept. 8 Ellen Carr D. of John & Elizabeth Jackson[5] Paradise Street Surgeon

Oct. 8 Maria D[r] of Peter & Maria Latreille[6] Seven Islands Letter Carver

[1] This was eventually John Mews, Esq., one of the Directors of the Surrey Commercial Dock Co.

[2] Mr Beech was foreman to Mr Beatson the shipbreaker and succeeded him.

[3] Robert Hall was the last of the old race of ship carvers of Rotherhithe. His men Hiram Long and Culmore continued the business in a humble way.

[4] For many years a Director of the Surrey Commercial Dock Co. Lived afterwards at St John's, Deptford, and died there.

[5] Mr Jackson and his son after him were medical practitioners in Paradise St. for some years and afterwards at the West End of London.

[6] The family of Latreille were long connected with Rotherhithe. Mr Ulysses Latreille was Manager at Mangles Wharf in Rotherhithe Street.

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In Volume XXIII are contained the baptisms from April 29, 1827, to May 27, 1832 (2400 entries), all in the handwriting of Mr Hardwicke.

1827 May 23 Emily D^r^ of William & Susannah Barnard Goldsworthy Terrace Lieutenant in the Royal Navy

1828 Nov. 14 Thomas Son of Robert & Rose Bateman Bedford Row Captain 79th Highland Regiment

In Volume XXIV are contained the baptisms from May 30, 1832, to July 5, 1837 (2400 entries). They are entered by Mr Hardwicke until April 10, 1835, when Mr Blick became rector, from which time they are almost all in his handwriting—occasionally a few appear in other hands.

1835 Apr. 10 Emma Ann & George John Robert children of Francis John & Harriot Hall Episcopal Floating Church Officer R.N. James Hough Chaplain and John Davis Chaplain

In and after 1835 we first find Metropolitan policeman and police constable. Up to this time they have only been called policemen, a description equally applicable to the Thames Police.

In Volume XXV are contained the baptisms from July 5, 1837, to Sept. 11, 1844 (2400 entries). On July 14, 1837, one baptism was solemnized by Francis Blick, vicar of Tamworth, the rector's father, and in Sept., 1837, several were taken by J. W. Lodington, Clare Hall, Cambridge, one of the Fellows of the college, also several by the Rev. Thos. Sedger.

1839 Mar. 17 Martha D. of late John Allnutt & Elizabeth Willans[1] Paradise St^t^ late Clerk of the Works at Paradise Row Church

[1] This was a posthumous child. Mr Willans met his death by a fall from a loose plank on the scaffold during the building of Christ Church. His widow was appointed a pew-opener when the church was completed. She eventually became one of Mrs Bayly's Pensioners, and died at a very advanced age in Neptune Street.

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1840 Jan. 8 James Henry Son of James & Caroline Matilda May[1] Prince's Street Master Mariner

June 28 John Son of John & Elizabeth Sprunt[2] Paradise Street Pawnbroker

1841 Apr. 4 Phœbe Jane D[r] of George Allen & Elizabeth Jane Lulham[3] Princes Place Mariner

Sept. 6 Louis Waistell Son of William & Mary Ann Phillips Princes Street Master Mariner

12 Squire Bancroft Son of Secundus Bancroft White & Julia Butterfield Oak Cottage Merchant

19 John Robert Son of John & Susan Stranack Claremont Place Master Mariner

1842 Jan. 28 Louisa Matilda D. of Thomas & Mary Elizabeth Morrison Skey[4] Princes Street Master Mariner

1843 Mar. 15 Cecilia[5] Mary d[r] of Frederic & Mary Elizabeth Lonsdale Claremont Place Master Mariner

In Volume XXVI are contained the baptisms from Sept. 13, 1844, to Oct. 13, 1852 (2400 entries).

1845 Nov. 2 Antonia Sophia d[r] of Francesco Michael & Mary Sophia Michelli Clare Hall Cottages Interpreter

1848 Dec. 13 Vincent Thomas[6] son of Thomas & Emma Elizabeth Murche 49 Albion St. Mariner

Rev. Charles Clark, curate, Feb. 5, 1851, and Rev. Charles Hind, curate, a little later.

1852 Oct. 4 William son of Charles & Sarah Hind Goldsworthy Terrace Curate of Rotherhithe

[1] Captain May lost his life at sea, and no certain tidings of the manner of his death ever reached his widow, who lived for many years after in Church Street: her only child emigrated and his mother never saw him again.

[2] Mr Sprunt was the founder of the charity known after his name as "Sprunt's Gift."

[3] Captain Lulham after becoming a Master Mariner commanded a sailing ship and traded to Tasmania.

[4] Captain Skey was related to the eminent London surgeon Mr Fred. C. Skey.

[5] Miss Lonsdale afterwards became mistress of the St Paul's National School.

[6] Mr Vincent T. Murche was afterwards a pupil teacher in Rotherhithe Schools and a certificated master. He wrote several admirable school books of Elementary Science which are much used in schools and were highly approved by the Education Department.

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In Volume XXVII are contained the baptisms from Oct. 15, 1852, to July 21, 1861 (2400 entries).

George Toulson Cotham, curate, Jan., 1855.

1857 Apr. 9 George son of Thomas & Sarah Sedger[1] New Peckham Surrey Clerk in Holy Orders

Edward John Wade, curate, 9 July, 1857.

Sept. 26 Claude Preedy Fosbrooke son of Robert & Ellen Mary Ann White Orchardleigh Villa[2] Deptford Lower Road Gentleman

1859 Nov. 23 William Robert son of William & Charlotte Elizabeth Marillier[3] 2 Broadway Neptune St. School Master

Dec. 25 John Warren son of John & Mary Elizabeth Stubbs[4] Church Street School Master

Rev. J. T. Becher, curate, April 8, 1860.

Rev. J. L. Gardner, curate, May 27, 1860.

1860 Oct. 5 Mabel Henrietta Margaret daughter of John Ludford & Mary Gardner 3 Surrey Place Lower R^d^ Clerk in Holy Orders

Nov. 18 George William son of George James & Catherine Eve[5] School House Clarence Street School Master

During many months at this time no entry appears in Mr Blick's handwriting—he was probably ill and unable to officiate.

In Volume XXVIII are contained the baptisms from July 24, 1861, to Jan. 12, 1868 (1600 entries).

1862 Mar. 12 Theodora Susan daughter of John Thomas & Maria Becher Rotherhithe Clerk in Holy Orders

[1] Mr Sedger was in 1860 living at 3 Hampton Grove, Surbiton, S.W.

[2] This house is now the property of the Dock Company and the residence of the Superintendent of the Docks.

[3] Master of the Rotherhithe Grammar School.

[4] Master of the Charity School, Church Street.

[5] This must have been the residence of the Master of the Ragged School and Mr Eve the first Master. His successor was Mr Casselden.

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Rev. James Moore, curate, June 22, 1862.

1863 Sept. 2 Victoria Sydney d[r] of Joseph & Phœbe Neatby[1] Dartmouth Terrace Master Mariner

Rev. Alfred Walne, curate, Oct. 4, 1863.

Oct. 14 Marian daughter of William Matthew & Mary Ann Marshall 14 Rotherhithe Wall Collector of Taxes

1864 May 4 Jane Maude d[r] of Thomas Spence & Julia Harriet Hawks Paradise St[t] Captain in the Madras Staff Corps

25 William Henry son of William Robert & Harriet Fuller 5 Stringers Row Lower Road Missionary

1865 Nov. 30 James John son of James John and Agnes Stokes Paradise St. Solicitor Edward Blick Rector

Rev. Ambrose Morris, curate, Dec. 2, 1866.

1867 Aug. 6 Amelia Eleanor Elizabeth Daughter of Frederick Gerard & Elizabeth Brown 47 Prince's St. Captain in H.M.'s 20th Regiment Fusiliers

28 Ella Beatrice daughter of Thomas William & Mary Ann Casselden The School House Clarence St. School Master

Rector Edward Blick departed this life June 25, 1867.
Edw. Josselyn Beck, rector, Nov., 1867.

In Volume XXIX are contained the baptisms from Jan. 12, 1868, to April 6, 1873 (1600 entries). A trace of the abolition of church rates occurs in the early part of this volume in a marginal note. "28 March, 1869. Copies of Registers up to this date transmitted to the Bishop of Winchester's Surrey Registry." The churchwardens having no longer the means to defray the cost of making copies, the practice had to be discontinued. This was certainly a result of the abolition of church rates not contemplated, and one which might easily prove disadvantageous: for the old custom

[1] Captain Neatby bequeathed £500 to the School of Industry in Clarence Street.

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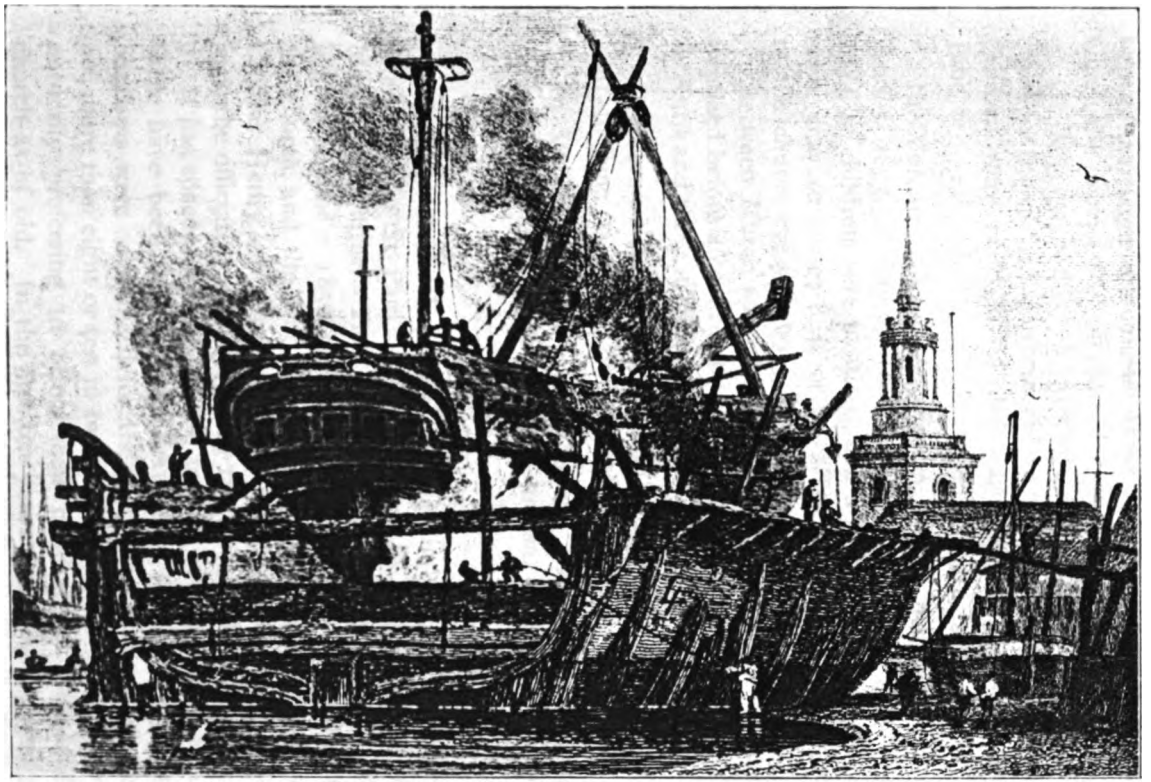

The Floating Dock in the Thames off Rotherhithe Church.

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had ensured a double record, viz. in the Bishop's Registry as well as in the parish books, corresponding with the duplicates kept of marriages at Somerset House as well as in the church where the marriage is solemnized.

On May 31, 1868 (Whitsunday), the new font was dedicated by the rector as a memorial to the late Mr Blick. Ten children were baptized on this occasion, and an adult on June 6.

In Volume XXX are contained the baptisms from April 6, 1873, to May 27, 1881 (2400 entries). On April 13, 1874, 40 children were baptized, and again on Sept. 3 of the same year 40 more; 8, 9, or 10 children were often brought to the church every Sunday in those times.

Between March 19 and March 21, 1878, nine adults were baptized before a confirmation; and two more adult baptisms in April and three in May.

In Volume XXXI are contained the baptisms from May 27, 1881, to June 20, 1900 (3200 entries).

In Volume XXXII are contained the baptisms from June 24, 1900, and it is in use at the present time (800 entries).

There is also a baptismal register in use for baptisms solemnized in St Paul's Chapel-of-ease in the parish of St Mary, Rotherhithe. This we will call Volume XXXIII. It begins on June 2, 1850, the day following the consecration of the church, and the first entry is that of Emily, daughter of Charles Henry and Susannah Stone, of 24 Mestears Buildings, the officiating minister being the Rev. Philip Bland.

It has spaces for 2400 entries, and up to the present time there have been 967 baptisms (Aug. 20, 1905). Very few baptisms were solemnized for the first few years, sometimes not more than eight or ten in twelve months, the parishioners naturally preferring to bring their children to the parish church as of old. In the first ten years there had been only 87 baptisms. For the second decade there were only 106 baptisms.

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But in August, 1871, the Rev. H. P. Gurney began his work in St Paul's district, and when he left it at the end of May, 1874, 152 additional baptisms had been recorded; on one day (May 22, 1873) no less than 51 children were baptized by him, and two adults on June 1.

During the third decade 316 baptisms had been recorded, but it should be remembered that in 1876 when the old church was closed for some months for extensive alterations the baptisms had all to be taken to St Paul's Chapel, and this accounts for 70 of the above total.

In the fourth decade the baptisms were only 159; in the fifth decade 173.

During the five years ending May 31, 1905, there have been 125 baptisms, the Rev. E. P. Highan having been extremely active in searching for unbaptized children and adults.

During the month of February, 1900, no less than 22 were baptized, of whom 8 were adults; and this rate of increase has been well maintained up to the present time by the efforts of the Rev. H. E. B. Peele.

It must be noted that the building of so many new parish churches in Rotherhithe has in course of years necessarily diminished the number of baptisms at the mother church.

The population of the civil parish of Rotherhithe, which had risen from 26,000 in 1861 to nearly 40,000 in 1901, is no test for that of the mother church district, which has greatly decreased. When the present rector came in November, 1867, the population under his charge was about 10,000. In 1905 it is probably under 6000. The carelessness of large numbers of people in seeking religious ordinances for themselves and for their children is very much greater than it was 50 years ago. And the average attendance at divine service as well as the average of baptisms, confirmations, and still more of attendance at the holy communion, has as a natural consequence of the general indifference to religion at present become very much lower than it was in the middle of the 19th century.

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In Volume XXXIV are contained the marriages from Jan. 10, 1813, to Feb. 9, 1827 (nearly 900 entries). They are in the old printed form sanctioned by Act of Parliament, 52 George III, Cap. 146, which was in use until the present form was adopted.

John Charles Tarver[1] Bachelor of the Parish of St Luke Chelsea in the County of Middlesex and Mary Cristall Spinster of this Parish a Minor were married in this Church by Licence by and with consent of Joseph Cristall the natural and lawful Father of the s^d^ Minor this Seventeenth Day of July in the year One thousand eight hundred and nineteen

By me John Lake Curate

This marriage was solemnized between us { John Charles Tarver / Mary Cristall

In the Presence of Elizabeth Cristall Joseph Cristall
Adelaide Elizabeth Tarver
Ann Batten Cristall

1821 Jan. 18 George Bainbridge and Susan Mews

1822 June John Beatson and Sarah Anne Punnett both Minors with consent of their Fathers David Beatson and William Punnett

In Volume XXXV are contained the marriages from Feb. 11, 1827, to July 23, 1837 (521 entries); the latter part of the book is blank, as the new register forms had to be adopted.

April 17, 1834, the marriage of Henry Cristall and Mary Ann Dummelow was solemnized. The register is signed by James and Sarah Dummelow and by Joseph and Ellen Cristall.

On Sept. 26, 1835, the marriage of George Hanks and Mary Ann Woodruff was solemnized by the Rev. Thomas Woodruff.

On June 18, 1836, the marriage of John Simson, of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, and Mary Ann Hartree was solemnized by the Rev. Edward Blick, rector.

[1] The Reverend Canon Charles Féral Tarver, M.A., son of the above, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, was Tutor to the Prince of Wales, now King Edward VII, Rector of Stisted and afterwards Canon of Chester Cathedral.

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On Oct. 31, 1836, the marriage of George Harrison, widower, clerk of Langdon Hills, and Emma Joan Brunel, spinster, was solemnized by the Rev. E. Blick. The witnesses were M^e^ P. Brunel, Charlotte Wollaston, R. Harrison, and Sarah Rains.

This was plainly a relative of the great engineer of the Thames Tunnel. Mr Wollaston was the chairman of the shareholders in the Thames Tunnel Company.

Very many of the parties to be married and their witnesses at this time were unable to write their own names. In one instance both bridegroom and bride and all three witnesses had to make their mark. The rector and sexton were alone capable of writing. Verily Mr Blick did well to build schools when he came into the parish!

In 1837 the modern form of marriage registers came into use pursuant to the Act 6 & 7 Gulielmi IV, Cap. 86.

In Volume XXXVI are contained the marriages from July 5, 1837, to Feb. 1, 1847 (500 entries). There is a blank in the line signed by the officiating minister which seems to have caused doubt as to the way in which it should be filled up, and we find it variously written "according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church" or "of the Church of England" or "of the Established Church." Mr Blick usually preferred the former designation, but the latter is often employed.

The ages are sometimes given in years, sometimes the words "of full age" or "minor" are entered. Much additional information is given in these forms as to rank or profession of the bridegroom and the names and occupations of the fathers of the contracting parties.

A few extracts from the marriages are made below.

1837 Oct. 30 Edmund Hurd of Ashbourn [Derbyshire] son of William Hurd Painter and Gilder and Therese Cornelia Vanderseypen of Rotherhithe daughter of John Vanderseypen Innkeeper.

The witnesses are Eliza Hurd and James Hurd.

1838 Nov. 3 Captain James May and Caroline Matilda Naylor

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1839 Aug. 8 William Christie son of Captain Christie and Elizabeth Kelsey daughter of John Kelsey Builder

1840 July 21 Captain John Stranack son of Captain Robert Stranack and Susanna Stranack daughter of Captain James Stranack

1841 Feb. 22 William Hutchinson Oliver son of William Sanford Oliver Captain R.N. and Rachel Frances Hutchinson daughter of Thomas Hutchinson Barrister-at-Law

Louisa Blick is one of those who signs the register as well as her brother, Rev. W. P. H. Hutchinson.

Oct. 5 John La Thangue son of Robert La Thangue Master Gunner and Felicia Catherine Woodman daughter of W^m^ Ingle Woodman Lieut^t^ in R.N.

1842 July 13 John Jethro Sandwell Master of the Workhouse and Caroline Harriet Emery Widow Matron of the Workhouse daughter of Alexander Henry who had been Master of the Workhouse

Mr Charles Erwin is one of the witnesses.

1843 May 29 Nicholas Tyack son of Captain Tyack and Ann Stranack daughter of Captain Robert Stranack

In 1844 William Archer succeeded John Dozell as parish clerk.

1844 July 30 Captain John Pook son of Henry Pook Commander in H.M.'s Navy and Susan Maria Hartree daughter of W^m^ Hartree Gentleman

Aug. 13 Richard Gaywood Gentleman son of John Gaywood Market Gardener and Amelia Taylor Widow daughter of James Bone

Nov. 12 James John Hatherley[1] Shipjoiner son of James Hatherley Lighterman and Frances Caroline Nottingham daughter of Matthew Nottingham Surveyor

[1] Mr Hatherley became a schoolmaster in the Colonies, and was an energetic member of the Church in Australia. He returned to England and lived for some years again in Rotherhithe.

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The register is signed among others by Joseph Hanby Oliver and his wife Ann Oliver (sister to the bride), by Eliza Nottingham, and Charlotte Tucker.

1847 Jan. 6 John Bing[1] (Widower) Shipwright son of William Bing Farmer and Sarah Ann Akam daughter of Edward Akam Cooper

In Volume XXXVII are contained the marriages from Feb. 10, 1847, to Oct. 29, 1855 (494 entries).

In Volume XXXVIII are the marriages from Nov. 4, 1855, to March 1, 1867 (500 entries).

In Volume XXXIX are the marriages from March 17, 1867, to Dec. 10, 1881 (500 entries).

In Volume XL are the marriages from Dec. 19, 1881, to Oct. 26, 1901 (500 entries).

In Volume XLI the entries begin on Nov. 17, 1901, and this is the register in present use.

Memoranda as to Rotherhithe Population, &c.

1739.

In Maitland's *Hist. of London*, printed in 1739, it is said that there were then 1320 houses in this parish, and only one person who kept a coach.

In 1792.

Number of houses	Number of Inhabitants
1600	9600 circa

George III. 51. Act, 1811. Rotherhithe.

Inhabited houses	Families	Uninhabited Buildings	Occupations: Agricultural	Occupations: Manufactures	Persons: Male	Persons: Female	Total
2695	3530	12	140	3390	5694	6620	12314

[1] John Bing was afterwards the Scripture Reader.

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In June 1840 the population of Rotherhithe amounted to 13,917.

The population of Rotherhithe in 1556 may be approximately inferred from the above statistics.

Further extracts from the Registers[1]. Made by the Rev. W. D. Sweeting.

1566	15 Sep.	Ann being a Skape[2]
1584	22 Jan.	Christopher the Irishmans Child that was born in M^r^ Shackletons Barne
1584	18 Dec.	Isahak Vanwinghen borne in our towne and baptized in the Duch Church
1594	14 Sep.	Saray the supposed Child of Philip Mason being a Skape
1613	22 Mar.	Alice y^e^ supposed daughter of Thomas West bap: 22^nd^ of Marche borne out of y^e^ Pishe: by a servaunte (of Rowland Swynzfeilds a fishmonger) named Elizabeth

[The above from Baptisms: the rest from Burials.]

1557	2 Nov.	A Stranger
	10 Nov.	Mother Willowes
1558	7 Dec.	John the Tynkarpman
1562	9 May	John A marrener that was drowned out of a shipp of the West Countery
	24 Aug.	Goodwife Andrewes
1563	30 Sep.	John the Welshe boye
	6 Jan.	Johon A scotish man
1565	23 Oct.	John Wrighte howseholder
1566	28 June	John baptist Tuck
	23 Dec.	Richard Stevenson out of the John of Newcastle

[1] The day of the month is put at the beginning of each extract, and is omitted from the extract itself. In the Baptisms, after 1600 the father's name is sometimes given, and after 1603 always. In the Burials a woman is often entered as "A wife," but husband's name not given.

[2] A Scape, or Skape, is an illegitimate child. It occurs six or eight times. I do not find the word in any dictionary. It occurs in this sense in *Winter's Tale*, iii. 3; when the old shepherd finds the child, he says, "Sure, some scape." W. D. S.

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1570	27 July	Peeter Becket a french boy
	19 Aug.	Archer a Skotishman
	13 Oct.	Isahac Breball a Childe of a french mā
1572	24 Jan.	Richard M[r] Lee his servant
1573	3 Feb.	Richard out of Bowlands howse
	15 Mar.	Andrew a sayler
1574	27 Oct.	Frauncis Chidley (a woman)
1576	31 May	Richard a scape out of Garrats hale [or perhaps hall]
1577	21 Mar.	William Thomas and Tower [or perhaps Turner] who suffered[1] at Wapping
1578	15 Oct.	John Bonam out of the Hounde of Lee
	21 Oct.	John Clark dwelling in Hackney
1579	28 Feb.	Thomas Hart out of the Sallomon of Alberowe[2]
1580	15 Aug.	Thomas Dockson a newcastleman out of the Nyghtingall of Newcastle
	22 Aug.	John Sewell out of the Providence of Alberow
	7 Nov.	William Barnes sailer buried out of the Richard and Jayne of London
1581	26 Oct.	A man murthered in the ffeelde
1582	5 Aug.	Rowland Peirson drowned out of persons whery[3]
1583	22 Sep.	Edward Hedley out of the Roger and Katherin of Newcastle
	29 Feb.[4]	Honour an Irishwoman buried out of M[r] Shakletons Barne
1584	25 Nov.	Jeffery Walsh sailer out of the Barke Parnell of Bricklesea[5]
	9 Dec.	Jeames Spill Tymber an infant
1585	12 June	William Boaner sailer out of the Mary Ann of Lee
	11 Nov.	Robert Danse drowned

[From a later volume.]

1784	29 Dec.	Prince Lee Boo buried from Capt[n] Willson's Paradise Row [aged] 20

[1] No doubt, suffered death = were executed.

[2] Can this be Aldborough, in Suffolk?

[3] Peirson's Wherry.

[4] It looks odd to see the date 29 Feb. in the year 1583. But, of course, the historical year (i.e. the actual date) was 1584, which was a Leap-year.

[5] Bricklesea is probably Brightlingsea.

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[Some unusual surnames, with dates at which first noted.]

Aguillam, 1592: Alfo (Alpho), 1615: Calicow (burial), 1585: Canada (Kennyda), 1621: Covet (Covert), 1594: Delabolia, 1589: Gallapyne (Gallopin), 1573: Goverthwortes, 1574: Haryyounge, 1587: Jarmanbrian (burial), 1573: Levite, 1619: Merimonth, 1630: Muxfoote, 1597: Netherstreete, 1559: Oderian, 1614: Ott, frequent: Piggret, 1568: Porige, 1576: Qunidey, 1627: Sallowe, frequent: Swinckfeilde, 1617: Swyer, 1611 (and earlier): Yaxno (burials), 1558.

[Some unusual male Christian names.]

Adrian, 1603: Aristotle, 1556: Augustine, 1607: Bryan, frequent: Cornellis, 1593: Dominick, 1593: Eleazar, 1609: Erastus, 1590: Ignacious, 1595: Jerom, 1587: Lancelot, 1630: Marmaduke, 1557: Theodorus, 1590: Tramer, 1591: Valentine, 1607.

[Some unusual female Christian names.]

Avice, 1601: Douglas, 1609: Em, 1595: Gartrude[1], 1612: Jacomin, 1610: Josen, 1618: Lucretia, 1607: Mowdlin, 1605: Patient, 1590: Phedra, 1615: Prudence, frequent: Rosana, 1587: Sibill, 1613: Thomasine, frequent: Ursula, 1607.

[1] I have frequently seen this name so spelt in old Registers. It shows that when the name Gertrude was first introduced into England it was pronounced Gartrude (like Hertford, Bertie, Derby, &c., &c.). W. D. S.

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CHAPTER X.

THE PARISH CHURCH, ITS MONUMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS.

THIS appears to be the most suitable place in which to record the history of the parish, as set forth in the monuments which adorn the church walls. Some few of these were originally in the mediæval church. A singularly fine sculpture of a man-of-war of the olden time is now built into the western wall of the north aisle, outside the church, near the tower. It had been carelessly mutilated by the iron railing round a modern tomb, which had been driven through the inscription, but this wanton act of vandalism has been remedied and the defaced letters have been restored. The inscription reads thus:—

1627.

Here beneath lyeth interred the body of Captaine Anthony Wood, who departed this life the 24 of August, 1625, being the 40 yeere of his age, and had issue by his wife Martha Wood six sonnes and foure daughters.

The description of this monument given in Stowe's *London*, p. 806, states that "on the outside of the north wall is a monument, bearing the figure of a ship at sea; under it the portraiture of him for whom it was erected, with his wife, six sons, and foure daughters; the living and the dead distinguished by death's-heads, which the buried seeme to bear in their hands...."

No trace of this "portraiture" is to be found at the present day.

Another stone on the external wall of the north aisle is inscribed as follows:—

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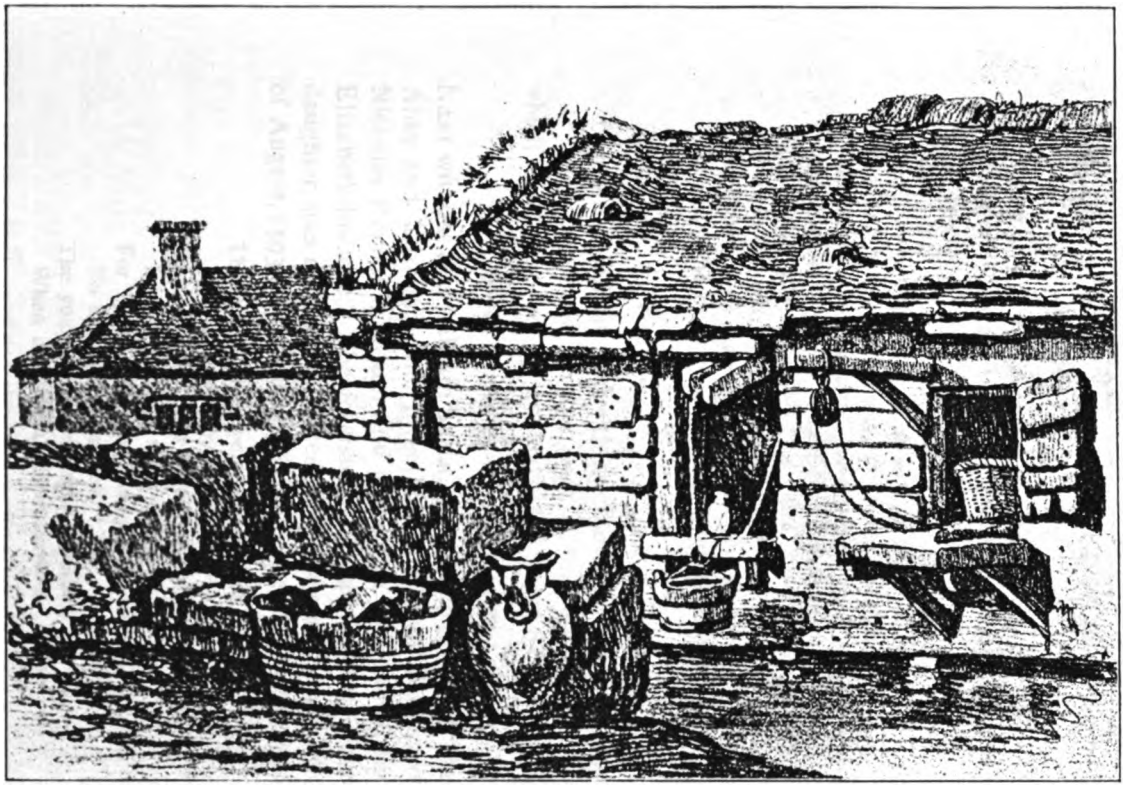

An old Cottage at Rotherhithe.

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HERE LIETH INTERRED IN THIS VALT THE BODY OF CAPT THOMAS STONE IVNIOR OF THIS PARRISH. HEE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE NINTH OF AVGVST 1666 & HAD TO WIFE AGNES WCH SERVIVETH

To you yt Liue Possest Great Troubles do befall
Where we yt Sleepe by Death doe feele no harme at all
An honnest Life doth bring a Joyfull Death at Last
And Life a gaine begins when Death is over past
Death is the path to Life & way to Endlesse wealth
The dore where by we pass to Everlastin Health
These Fortie yeares & two have passed here my life
And Eighteene yeares thereof thou Agnes wert my wife
My loving Wife Farewell God guide the with his grace
Prepare thy selfe to come & i will give the place
Aequintance all Farewell & be assured of this
You shall be brought to dust as Thomas Stone here is

Stowe says (p. 806):—

"In the church at Roderith are these ensuing monuments.

"In the south ile, on the wall, is this written on a slab which is surrounded by an alabaster frame:—

Post tenebras, spero Lucem.

Next without this wall are buried Brian, Richard and Marke, Alize and Elizabeth, the three sons and two daughters of Nicholas Reynolds, citizen and goldsmith of London, and of Elizabeth his wife. The forenamed Elizabeth, their younger daughter, was married to Robert Wheatley, salter, the 20 day of August, 1593, and died the 18 September, in the same yeere.

These Blossomes yong and tender, loe,
Blowne downe by deadly wind,
May urge the riper sort to know,
Like blast shall them out find.
For Flesh, as grasse, away doth wither,
No age can it eschew,
The young and old decay together,
When death shall them pursue.

On a small black marble slab on the wall of the north aisle is the following inscription to a worthy Royalist, Captain Roger Tweedy:—

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Roger Tweedy Esq^e^.
Was Intered in y^e^ Middle Ile of this Church in y^e^
Year 1655. He Gave by will Two Shillings Every Lords Day
for ever to bee Distribvted among Twelve Poore
Seamen or Seamens Widdows in Bread the Officers
of this Chvrch to take care to Distribvte it and
those nearest of Kinn to him Enqvire of its
Disposal and if not performed as by His Will to
Take it into their hands
In Comemoration of Cap^t^ Roger Tweedy
who Liveing
was landmens Counceller Seamens glory
Schismes Scourge & truths liveing Story
His soule A ship with Graces fully laded
through Surges deepe did plow & Safely waded
which principles of faith his Ballanc'd mind
did Steady Sayle gainst Blasts of Boystrous wind
of doctrine falce w^ch^ furiously did Blow
like Rowling waues to toss him to & fro
This Sayling Ship did precious wares Distribute
in euery port as the acknowledg'd trybute
of Christ his King Loues Crane did weigh
the Councell Contribution he did pay.
Att Rotherheath hee did att length Arriue
and to their poore his tribute fully giue
And in this port he doth at anchor stay
hopefully expecting Resurrections day.

One other relic of the ancient Church hangs upon the East Wall of the North Aisle, near the door of the Clergy Vestry. It is a fine copy—perhaps a unique copy—of "the Portraicture of His Most Sacred Majesty King Charles the First commonly known as the Eikon Basilike." This precious possession of our Parish was, in all probability, given to the Church in or soon after the year of the Restoration, 1660. Other Churches in England had similar portraits of the Martyred King Charles placed upon their walls at this period. But not many remain to the present day. There is one still existing in Charles' Church, Plymouth, and another in St Michael's Church, Cambridge. Probably there are others

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in existence. But the Cambridge picture is a portrait without any accompanying emblems. The Rotherhithe picture is an exact reproduction in oil-colours of the frontispiece of the well-known book entitled *Eikon Basilike*, and some account of the symbolism with which it is adorned may well be given in the Appendix.

There is another picture of modern date which hangs on the East Wall of the South Aisle and which is the gift of Mrs Richmond Johnson in memory of her parents, the Reverend Thomas York, B.D., and Mrs York, late of Rotherhithe.

The subject of the picture is "the Entombment of our Saviour," and it is a most appropriate adornment for a Parish Church where so many mourners bring their dead for the last Offices of the Church.

The original of this great picture hangs in the "Salon Carré" of the Musée of the Louvre in Paris. It is the masterpiece of Titian, and is indeed one of the most beautiful of the great religious pictures which have come down to us from the old masters of painting.

This copy of the famous picture was made by an English artist of great eminence, Mr J. Hardwicke Lewis. The grouping of the figures is most beautifully arranged; the three men who are carrying the lifeless body of the Lord are Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathæa, and St John. The Blessed Virgin Mary stands at the left hand of the group, supported by St Mary Magdalene. The last streaks of daylight are seen through the gathering shades of night.

The inscription on the frame below the picture is as follows:—

"In the place where He was crucified there was a Garden, and in the Garden a new Sepulchre: there laid they Jesus."

St John xix. 41, 42.

To the Glory of GOD and in memory of her parents the Reverend Thomas York, B.D. who departed this life October 3rd 1894 and Emma his wife who departed this life November 1st 1890 this painting is placed in the Church of St Mary Rotherhithe by their daughter. 1897.

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The history of this great work of Titian is not a little curious. It once hung in the Palace of Whitehall, being the property of King Charles the First, who was a great collector of works of art. After his execution, the Parliament appears to have been unable to find any further use for his pictures and they were to be sold. The French king Louis the Fourteenth knew the value of the work and sent a Jew dealer to England to buy it for him; and so it passed from Whitehall to the Palace of the Louvre, where it has a place of honour in the Central Room among the masterpieces of the world—and now in Rotherhithe Church King Charles' portrait hangs on one side of the Chancel, and is much prized; and the "*Deposizione*," which once was the king's, hangs on the other side.

Above the door of the Clergy Vestry is an ornamental slab of oak of oval form, encircling the sacred Monogram in the form in which it is used by the Jesuits.

It should be recorded for the information of those who are interested in the history of our Parish Church that this oval slab was originally part of the oaken Reredos which was finished above the architrave with an entablature. When the Choir was formed in 1876 and the level of the Sanctuary raised by several steps, it was necessary to remove the entablature to prevent the Painted Glass Window above it from being hidden, but the Monogram was carefully preserved and placed on the wall of the Church above the entrance to the Vestry.

INSCRIPTIONS ON MONUMENTAL SLABS.

Sacred to the memory of
Ann Davies
The beloved Wife of James Davies
Daughter of James Ford Corn Merchant
of this Parish.
Who died 2nd December 1852 of Yellow Fever
At Bahia, in South America
aged 32 years.
Much beloved and respected
This Tablet was erected
By her affectionate Husband.

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In the Vault under this Church are deposited
the remains of Mrs Martha Davis
The beloved Wife of Mr John Davis
of the Black Bull in the Borough of Southwark
Who with eight children are left to lament
the severe loss of an affectionate Wife.
A tender and indulgent Mother, she died
the 31st day of July, 1797, in the 37th year of her age.

"Be ye also ready, for in such an hour
as ye think not, Christ cometh."

In the adjacent churchyard lies the body of
Prince Lee Boo
Son of Abba Thulle, Rupack or King of the Island
of Coo-roo-raa, one of the Pelew or Palos Islands.
Who departed this life at the house of
Captain Henry Wilson in Paradise Row in this Parish
on the 27th day of December 1784 aged 20 years.
This Tablet is erected
by the Secretary of State for India in Council
to keep alive the memory of the humane treatment
shown by the natives to the crew of the Honourable
East India Company's Ship "Antelope" which was wrecked
off the Island of Coo-roo-raa on the 9th of August 1783.

"The barbarous people showed us no little kindness." Acts XXVIII. 2.

1892.

Sacred
to the memory of the late
William Coleman
Citizen and Glover
who departed this life
May the 26th 1820
in the 63d year of
his age.

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In memory of
Mrs Martha Elizabeth Barmby
wife of Mr John Barmby
who died 5th September 1837 aged 32 years.

Also John Wing Barmby
only child of the above
who died 27th February 1843
aged 5 years and 8 months.

Also the above named
Mr John Barmby
who died 3rd January 1887
aged 91 years.

To the memory of
Mr Thomas Stokes
of this Parish
who departed this life 3rd April, 1856
aged 54 years.

This tablet is erected by
several of his
fellow parishioners and friends
in remembrance of his many
estimable qualities and acts of kindness
and utility
in public as in private life.

In memory of the late united family
of William and Elizabeth Soper of this Parish
Whose remains are deposited in a vault beneath.

Jane . . . . . Died August 1828 aged 28 years
Harriet Hamlyn . Died October 1828 aged 24 years
Elizabeth relict of John Horsford Head
Died June 1833 aged 44 years
Maria . . . . . Died March 1834 aged 39 years
Henrietta daughter of John Horsford and Elizabeth
Head . . . . Died June 1820 aged 11 months
Benjamin Watts son of Benjamin and Hester Soper
Died August 1828 aged 1 month

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Presentation Portrait of William Soper. Esq., Treasurer of the Parish of Rotherhithe, A.D. 1835.

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Benjamin. . . . Died September 1831 aged 3 months
Hester Eliza . . Died September 1832 aged 7 years
Eliza . . . . . Died May 1834 aged 11 months
Also William son of William and Elizabeth Soper
Died in Grenada 28th July 1805 aged 13 years.
Also John Horsford Head died in S^{t} Lucia
12th June 1829 aged 44 years.
Also the above named William Soper
Many years Treasurer of this Parish.
Which office he fill'd to the entire
satisfaction of the Parishioners.
Who to evince their high respects
and esteem for his services presented
him with his portrait and a silver vase.
He died November the 7th 1839 aged 84 years.
Also Elizabeth his wife
Died November the 10th 1839 aged 79 years.

The memory of the just is blessed.

Also George Francis Soper
Died September the 21st 1840 aged 39 years.
Also Hester died January 13th 1841 aged 19 months.
Also Benjamin Soper
Died April 21st 1841 aged 44 years.

Sacred
To the memory of M^{r} Joseph Wade
For many years King's-Carver
in His Majesty's yards
At Deptford and Woolwich.
In which Profession he was equall'd by few
and exceeded by none.
He married Christian daughter
of M^{r} Tho^{s} Stephenson
of East Greenwich, Surgeon
by whom he had issue
Iane, who married Nic^{s} Jackson
of Shropshire, Gent:
She died Ian: 29th 1737, aged 44.

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Ioseph, who died Iuly 2d 1740
Aged 43
and Samuel who erected
This Monument
In testimony of his virtues
Which made him belov'd in life
and lamented at his death
by all that knew him.
He died Novr 22d 1743
Aged 79.
He had three children more
Who all died in their infancy.

In memory of
Mr William Roberts
Merchant
Many years a respected
Inhabitant of this Parish
Who departed this life
December the 12th 1815
Aged 59 years.
Also of
Mrs Ann Roberts
Widow of the above
Who died March the 28th 1848
in the 76th year
of her age.

This Tablet
Was erected by the workmen
And late apprentices of
Mr Edward Hawks
For many years an extensive
Ship builder in this Parish
As a Testimonial
Of grateful remembrance
For his kindness and urbanity
of manners
Who died July 23rd 1844
Aged 66 years.

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Sacred
to the memory of
George Bainbridge
who was a native of the County of
Cumberland
and for many years a respected inhabitant
of this Parish
where he died lamented
the 3rd of January 1848 aged 62 years.
Also to the Memory of his Two Daughters
Margaret
Born November 30th 1822 Died December 4th 1822.
Susannah
Born May 16th 1826 Died May 22nd 1826.
Also to the Memory of
William Bainbridge
nephew to the above. He Died February 17th 1844
aged 24 years.

Their remains are deposited in
the vault beneath this church.

Everilda Bracken
of Sutton Coldfield
second daughter of Richard and Anne Bracken
of a family of that name formerly settled
at Goodham Scales Westmoreland
Died in Christian faith and hope
while on a visit
at the Rectory of this Parish, assisting to
relieve the sufferers from the cholera
Sept. 12th, 1849, aged 47.

Her body is buried in a vault under the Chancel.

This tablet is erected in memory of
Mr Robert Speck
whose remains are interred in the vault
beneath this Church and who departed this life
on the 30th of May 1839 aged 44 years.

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Also to Mrs Ann Leggett
who died on the 22nd of January 1840
in the 85th year of her age
and of Mrs Sarah Speck, relict of the above
who died on the 21st of January 1859
in the 76th year of her age
and is interred at Nunhead cemetery.

Sacred
to the memory of
Harriet Stephenson Simson
late wife of
Thomas Simson
of this Parish
who departed this life the 5th of April 1827
in the 21st year of her age.

The remains of the above are deposited in the
vault beneath, together with her infant son
Charles Carter Simson
who died 12th January 1827, aged 10 months.

In memory of
Thomas Rigg
late of Paradise Street in this Parish
who departed this life 20th February 1858
in his 71st year.
Also of
Catharine
forty-nine years the beloved wife of
the above
who departed this life at Paradise Street
29th October, 1859, in the 76th year
of her age.

Their remains are interred at Nunhead cemetery.

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Sacred to the memory of
Mrs Elizabeth Barrow, wife of Captain
Thomas Barrow of this Parish, who
departed this life the 21st of November
1775. Aged 62 years.
If Prudence, Humanity, Benevolence, and
Charity constitute an amiable character
these were the virtues she possessed.
A loving and indulgent wife
a generous friend
Living was esteem'd, and now dead much
lamented, by her disconsolate husband
who in gratitude to the many virtues
she posses'd when living, has erected
this monument.

Captn Thomas Barrow husband
of the above, who departed
this life the 5th of July
1787 aged 72 years.

For some additional Inscriptions see pp. 150, 179 and 183.

There are recorded in various Histories of London and Surrey some monumental inscriptions which no longer exist, but which were once to be found in the Parish Church; e.g.

George Pastfield died 9 Nov. 1660
or *Pashfield* (Stowe's *London*)

Mary Tiddiman, the wife of Christopher Tiddiman, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Tiddiman, Knight, aged 30 years, who departed this life the 9th day of September, 1666[1].

Josephus Lyne obiit 12 Octob. Aº Dom. 1685 ætatis suæ 35.

Matthew Hungerford, Esq., late of Chisbury in the Co. of Wiltshire who departed this life 20th April 1677, aged 65 years.

[1] From the Burial Register—"1666. Mary Tiddiman Buryed September 9." "1668. Thomas Titteman buryed May 15." [This was Admiral Sir Thomas Tiddeman, Knt.]

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And in the Churchyard—

Ann Blake widow of Captain John Blake of Rederiffe, died 21 Oct. 1681, in her 65th year.

The monuments on the walls of the Parish Church by no means exhaust the records of the dead, for the Churchyard and Burial Ground are full of tombstones and other memorials which have been set up by survivors to keep alive the names of their departed relatives. Unhappily through lapse of years and much more from the deleterious action of the rain and frosts, complicated by the smoke from a thousand chimneys both on shore and afloat, the inscriptions on these stones have in very many cases become quite illegible. The families who own the graves have long since died out or removed away from Rotherhithe, and, as they have made no provision for the periodical renovation of the tombs, the names of the occupants have been in great measure lost to us.

Notwithstanding this neglect we are still able to decipher many of the inscriptions or to complete them by reference to the Registers of Burials.

The following are some of the names which are of interest:—

The Hay family. Tomb near the Church Tower[1]. Records the name of

Francis Theodore Hay
who died 11 May 1838 aged 70
and of Eleanor Gordon Hay his wife
who died 30 September 1799 aged 33
also of Ann wife of Charles Hay who died
26 February 1862 aged 69
and Charles Hay son of the above who
died 14 March 1866 aged 38 years
also Charles Hay who died 2 November 1868 aged 78 years.

The Woodruffe family. Tomb adjoining the west wall of the north aisle. Inscribed on tomb in Rotherhithe Churchyard—

[1] See Burial Register.

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Mrs Ann Esther Woodruffe
relict of W^m^ Woodruffe Surgeon in the Royal Navy
died 18 May 1843 aged 80 years
Richard George Woodruffe
died 7 October 1850.

The Wilson family, with record of Prince Lee Boo's death on the flat slab of the tomb, which is in the western part of the Churchyard near the passage between St Marychurch Street and Rotherhithe Wall. The Inscriptions after recording the death of

Master John Kenderdine Wilson 22 Aug. 1779 aged 4 years & 3 months
also of M^rs^ Elizabeth Orchard April 16 1787 aged 50 years
also of M^rs^ Christiana Wilson late
wife of Captain Henry Wilson 11 Jan. 1802 aged 67 years & 8 months

proceeds thus:

In full assurance of the Resurrection of the Dead the body of the above named Cap^t^ Henry Wilson who died 10 May 1810 aged 70 years was interred at Colyton near Axminster in Devonshire. He commanded the Honourable East India Company's packet Antelope which was wrecked on the Pelew Islands in the month of August 1783.

Many pious reflections follow, but they have in lapse of years become quite illegible.

Prince Lee Boo's body lies in the same tomb, and the following words are inscribed on the ledger of the tomb:

To the memory of
Prince Lee Boo
a native of the Pelew or Palos Islands and son of Abba Thulle
Rupack or King of the Island Goo' Roo' Raa
who departed this life on the 27th December 1784
aged 20 years.

This stone is inscribed by the Honourable United East India Company as a testimony of esteem for the humane and kind treatment afforded by his father to the crew of their ship Antelope, Capt. Wilson, which was wrecked off that Island on the night of the 9th of August, 1783.

Stop reader, stop, let nature claim a tear,
A prince of mine, Lee Boo, lies buried here.

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The Nelson Tomb. Adjoining this grave is a stone which records the death of

Mary Mansfield widow of John Mansfield formerly of Plymouth Dock and of Sheerness Dockyard who died 5 Oct. 1817 aged 62 years.

Mr John William Nelson son-in-law of the above and formerly Storekeeper of His Majesty's Dockyard at Deptford, died 10 February 1828 aged 63.

Mary his widow died 13 May 1839 aged 63.

The Rosher family[1]. Tomb alongside the Church Passage.

The Garth family[2]. Tomb in the angle of Church Passage and Rotherhithe Wall.

The Grice family[3]. Vault enclosed with an iron rail on dwarf stone curbing, but without any stone or other inscription.

Mr Grice was the owner of Grice's Granaries which adjoin the Churchyard at the north-eastern corner.

N.B. Close to Grice's Granaries was an old building called "the Blue Mountains." It has long since been destroyed, but there are still living persons who remember it.

In the N.E. corner, near "the Blue Mountains," once stood the parish "Bone-House," but this part of the Church ground had never been consecrated or used for interments, and it was sold to the Thames Steam Ferry Company, and by them thrown into the street and dedicated to the use of the public; the access to their wharf was by this improvement made wider. The Ferry Company was, however, a failure. The expectations upon which it was founded proved delusive; the two fine ferry-boats with elaborate hydraulic machinery for the passage of vans and carts at all times of the tide failed to tempt the timber-merchants and contractors to shorten by nearly two miles the journey to London Bridge, and, like many other improvements born before their time, the Ferry did but herald the magnificent enterprise of the Tower Bridge, with its bascules; and the costly undertaking of the

[1] See p. 172. [2] See p. 171. [3] See p. 188.

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Rotherhithe and Shadwell Tunnel which is being carried out at the present moment (1905).

Thomas & Ann Stevens	1787	Stone
Daniel Nicholson Stevens	1788	
Mr William Stevens	1833	
Mr James Fair	1824	„
James Kid	1851	„
Elizabeth Dudley	1846	„
Mr Daniel Waller	1837	„
Mrs Fanny Waller	1840	
Mrs Sarah Patmore	1840	
Mr John Waller	1812	
Mary Ann Elizabeth James	1842	„
Mary Oxley	1800	
John Oxley	1822	„
Mary Chapman	1779	„
Mrs Mary Brownley	1848	„
Richard Atkinson Esqr	1840	„
Mrs Mary Ann Alder	1849	„
Martha Esther Walker	1832	„
William Waring Walker	1833	
Ralph Walker	1878	
Ralph Taylor Walker	1879	
Mrs Elizabeth Whitby	1834	„

The present Church contains several of the old monuments which had been in the Mediæval Church and were removed from its walls when it was pulled down in 1714.

The oldest of these is a monumental Brass in three separate pieces. It was up to the year 1876 fastened to the pavement "in the middle Ile" of the Church. But by reason of the continual treading of persons walking over it, the metal had become so much worn away that it was in danger of becoming illegible and in part destroyed.

The present Rector therefore caused the three portions of it to be carefully taken up, and fastened to an oaken slab affixed to the North Wall of the North Aisle.

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The Inscription is as follows:—

Trinitas in Unitate.

Here lies buried the body of Peter Hills, Mariner, one of the eldest Brothers and Assistants of the Company of the Trinity, and his two wives; who while hee lived in this place, gave liberrally to the poore, and spent bountifully in his house: and after many great troubles, being of the age of 80 yeeres and upward departed this life without issue, upon the 26 of February, 1614.

This was made at the charge of Robert Bell.

Though Hills be dead,
Hills' Will and Act survives
His Free-Schoole, and
his Pension for the Poore;
Thought on by him,
performed by his Heire,
For eight poore Sea-mens
Children, and no more.

This monument records the pious memory of the Founder of our Ancient Free School, which from that time to the present day has continued as a most valuable Educational Charity in Rotherhithe.

The Schoolmaster had a house of residence and a small yearly endowment that he might in it teach eight boys, sons of Mariners of Redriff. The sum left by Peter Hills was small, Six pounds per annum, secured as a Rent-charge upon Messuages belonging to him. One moiety of this sum was to be paid to the Schoolmaster, the other moiety to the Churchwardens for the Poor. For two hundred and eighty years this sum was duly paid, till 1900, when this Parish was incorporated in the Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey and the Borough Council declined to pay the Rent-charge any longer. It is however hoped they will shortly pay the amount due.

There is also a finely carved shield of the Royal Arms of the time of King Charles the Second, which was until 1876 over the Chancel Arch, but has now been affixed to the North Wall of the North Aisle, near Peter Hills' Brass.

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INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BENEFACTION BOARDS.

Donations to the Poor of this Parish.

		£	s.	d.
Peter Hills and Rob^{t} Bell Esq^{rs}	Gave the Free School and £3 Pr Ann^{m} to the master to teach Eight Children, Sons of Seafaring Men also £3 for Provisions for the Poor	6	0	0
Hen^{y} Smith Esq^{r}	for Provisions or Cloathing to be distributed Yearly on St Thomas's Day	10	0	0
Amb^{se} Bennett Esq^{r}.	Yearly in Bread . . .	9	0	0
Cap^{t} W. Stevens & The Rev^{d} T. Gattaker (formerly Rector of this Parish)	£110 to purchase Land, for Six Poor Inhabitants to receive Weekly 2^{d} in Bread and 2^{d} in Money each, also £40 to be added to Cap^{t} Stevens's Gift . . .	5	4	0
Cap^{t} Rog^{r} Tweedy	As much Money as should Purchase Land £5. 4^{s} Pr Ann^{m} clear, for 2^{s} to be given in Bread every Sunday to Poor Seamen or Seamens Widows	5	4	0
	Yearly distributed with the advanced Rent	£35	8	0

Note. With the three last Donations were Purchased in the Year 1659, two Parcels of Abby Land, viz. one of about 4 Acres lying between Bow and Stratford, Let on Lease at 9 0 0

And the other Parcel in Plaistow Lane of 3 Acres 3 Roods, Let also on Lease at 6 10 0

Produced in 1749 (Per Ann^{m}) £15 10 0

1851. August 9. M^{r} James Kid — The Interest (on reversion) of £600, less Legacy Duty for the Promotion of Education in this Parish

1854. W. Howard Esq^{r} to the Charity School . £200 0 0

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INSCRIPTION ON THE SECOND BENEFACTION BOARD.

Donations to this Parish.

1877. Mr John Sprunt Bequeathed £200, £3 pr cent. Consols (less Legacy Duty) to the Churchwardens of this Parish for ever, the Interest to be paid Annually on the 23rd of December to Six Poor Widows of good character of this Parish who should have attained the Age of 50 yrs. share and share alike.

1877. Dame Elizabeth Ann Gomm Bequeathed £5000 (free of duty), the income to be applied for the benefit of old men and women residing in districts of St Mary, St Barnabas, and Christ Church, Rotherhithe.

1881. Mr Robert Shafto Hawks Bequeathed £1000 (subject to a life interest to his wife and to legacy duty and expenses) in augmentation of Mrs Bayly's Charity.

1904. Mr Samuel Ward Copping Bequeathed £1000 (less legacy duty and expenses) in augmentation of Mrs Bayly's Charity.

BENEFACTIONS TO THE CHARITY SCHOOL.

Sundry Subscriptions in the Year		£	s.	d.
1745.	For Rebuilding the School	374	13	0
1745.	Barthw Wood Esqr & Capt. Hy Sax. Executors to Capt Jn Brook	50	0	0
1754.	Mr George Cornwall	100	0	0
1758.	Mr Alexander Roberts	10	0	0
1760.	Bartholemew Wood Esqr	100	0	0
1765.	The Revd Thos Negus D.D.	20	0	0
1765.	Mrs Elizabeth J. Ans	100	0	0
1771.	James Taylor Esqr	200	0	0
1774.	Mr Fortunatus Planta	21	0	0
1783.	William Coote Esqr	50	0	0
1786.	John Gray Esqr	105	0	0
1788.	Henry Mills Esqr	100	0	0
1798.	John Romaine Esqr	50	0	0
1799.	Mr Robert Willson	50	0	0
1801.	Capt Ge Russell, 3 pr cent Annts	1000	0	0
1801.	Mr Wm Curling, Late Treasurer	50	0	0
1808.	Mr John Fell	22	9	6

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		£	s.	d.
1809.	Mr Conrade Barrett to the Amicable Society School	25	0	0
1818.	W. J. Denison Esqr M.P.	21	0	0
1820.	Francis Woodruff Esqr	50	0	0
1820.	Mr Wm Coleman, 3 per cent. Consols	200	0	0
1822.	Capt Jn Calf, By will Dated 1808	100	0	0
1823.	Mrs Sarah Lidard	50	0	0
1826.	C. N. Pallmer Esqr M.P.	21	0	0
1828.	A Lady to the Free School	10	10	0
1839.	The Daughters of the Late Fras Thers Hay Esqre 3 per cent. Consols to Purchase Cloaks and Coats	200	0	0
1849.	G. R. Pearson Esqr per Miss Pearson	50	0	0
1850.	Exors of the late Jane Hurt	5	0	0

TABLET AFFIXED TO THE SOUTH WALL OF THE CHURCH, NEAR THE GALLERY STAIRCASE.

Benefactors to the Charity School.

1709.	Capt John Jacobs	10	0	0
1710.	Capt John Steele	10	0	0
1712.	The contributors' gift to purchase Ground Rent of £10 per Annm at Church Stairs as pr deeds in Vestry	220	0	0
1717.	Capt Plaford Clarke	10	0	0
1862.	Capt Henry Neatby—			
	Charity School	200	0	0
	Green School	200	0	0
	United Socy School	100	0	0
1836.	Joseph Rawlins Pr Year, Long Annuities	5	0	0
1839.	Mr Jn Cross by Will dated 1797, Consols	1550	0	0
1841.	Charles Carter Esqr	50	0	0
1843.	Mrs Ann Esther Woodruff	50	0	0
1843.	Genl Sir William M. Gomm, K.C.B., £10 pr annm from the year 1833 included	110	0	0
1861.	Mr William John Green of Portsea, late of this Parish	20	0	0
	The Gift of Capt Leonard Bower, 1713[1].			

[1] i.e. the expense of erecting the board and inscriptions thereon.

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INSCRIPTIONS ON THE FOUR PANELS ON THE FRONT OF THE WEST ORGAN GALLERY.

1st Panel.

The Ancient Parish Church of
S[t] Mary Rotherhithe
was Rebuilt 1714–15
Rev D[r] Lovel Rector
John Adams
Richard Stiles } Churchwardens

2nd Panel.

This Organ was
Erected by Subscription
of some of the Inhabitants
of this Parish A.D. 1764

3rd Panel.

1798. M[rs] S. M. Negus (Widow
of a late Rector of this Parish)
bequeathed £81 $\frac{\text{per}}{\text{Ann.}}$ to purchase Bibles &[c]
and for the Education of Children

4th Panel.

This Church was Re-seated
and Restored 1876

Rev. Edward Josselyn Beck, M.A. Rector
Robert Footit
Edward James Talbot } Churchwardens
Francis J. Bisley
Henry Hayward } Sidesmen

Date beneath the Clock face—CDCCLXV.

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BENEFACTORS WHO GAVE PIOUSLY TOWARDS BUILDING THE PARISH CHURCH. Aubrey's *Surrey*, vol. v.

	£	s.	d.
Her most Gracious Majesty Queen ANNE by Brief granted and collected .	920	0	0
The Right Reverend Father in God, Jonathan, Lord Bishop of Winchester .	230	0	0
The Right Honourable John Lake, Commissioner of the Admiralty	100	0	0
Richard Cambridge of London, Esq. . .	50	0	0
The Honourable Sir John Smith, Baronet . .	15	0	0
The Honourable the Commissioners of the Victualling Yard . . .	21	12	0
Several Gentlemen of the Honourable Fraternity of Trinity-House . .	30	0	0
Captain Robert Sandes of Bermondsey . . .	10	15	0
£1377 7s. (*sic*)	1378	6	8

INHABITANTS OF THE SAID PARISH, VIZ.

A.			
Samuel Atkinson, Esq. .	100	0	0
Mr John Adams . .	50	0	0
Mr Henry Aldridge . .	2	3	0
Mr Richard Arnold . .	1	10	0
Mr William Atkins . .	1	0	0
Mr Edward Atwick			
B.			
Mrs Martha Beale . .	20	0	0
Capt. John Buckeer . .	15	0	0
Capt. Leonard Bower .	10	0	0
Capt. Thomas Bradley .	10	0	0
Capt. Joseph Bewes . .	10	15	0
Mr Phil. Browne . . .	10	0	0
—— Barlow . . .	10	0	0
Mr Elias Browne . .	10	0	0
Mr John Blackson . .	10	0	0
Capt. Charles Burroughes .	8	4	6
Mrs Sarah Buggin . .	6	0	0
Capt. William Brock .	5	0	0
Mrs Eliz. Bower . .	5	0	0
Mrs Mary Bowers . .	5	0	0
John Blake . . .	5	0	0
Mr Anthony Bayles . .	5	0	0
Mr Nicholas Baggs . .	5	0	0
Mr John Burr . . .	6	13	4
Capt. Samuel Biggs . .	5	0	0
Capt. Bartholomew Browne . . .	3	0	0
Mr John Brook . .	3	0	0
Mr John Broadgate . .	3	0	0
Mr Thomas Ball . .	2	0	0
—— Burford . . .	2	3	0
Mr James Boutflower .	2	3	0
Mr Edward Bishop . .	1	10	0
Mrs Brewett . . .	1	3	6
Mr John Bloice . .	1	10	0
Mr Richard Batchelor .	1	10	0
Mr Samuel Boyles . .	1	10	0
Mr Thomas Benbridge .	1	1	6
Mrs Jane Burt . . .	1	12	0
Mr Israel Buckland			
Mr Henry Bull			
Mr Burchett			
C.			
Capt. Playford Clark .	30	0	0
Capt. Samuel Cook . .	20	0	0
Capt. Henry Collins .	10	0	0
Capt. John Christmas .	10	0	0
Capt. Edward Cooke .	10	0	0
Capt. John Cammelle .	10	0	0
Mr Andrew Cooper . .	10	0	0

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	£	s.	d.
Capt. Walter Cronker	5	0	0
Mrs Mary Cumberland	5	0	0
Mrs Margaret Champneys	5	0	0
Mrs Margaret Clarke	5	0	0
Capt. Thomas Clarke	5	0	0
Capt. John Clifton	5	0	0
Mr George Cassel	2	0	0
Mr Robert Carter	2	0	0
Mr Thomas Colton	1	0	0
Mrs Ann Cox	1	1	6
Mr Thomas Church	1	10	0
Mr Ralph Creswell	1	10	0
Mr David Clement	1	10	0
Mrs Mary Chambers	1	1	6
Mr Edward Cox			
Capt. Cox			
Mr John Cannon			
Mr Crumly			

D.

Capt. John Denn	20	0	0
Mr Adam Delfey	20	0	0
Capt. Joseph Davis	5	7	6
Mr John Dear	1	1	6
Mrs Sarah Daniel	0	10	0
Mrs Easter Dudley			
Mr Thomas Dale			
Mr John Dinnington			

E.

Mrs Mary Elton	10	0	0
Capt. Andrew Elton	15	0	0
Mrs Mary Evans	10	15	0
Mr Abraham Eadrop	5	0	0
Mr Thomas Eadrop	3	0	0
Mr John Ellis	2	0	0
Mr Thomas Ellis	1	1	6
Mr John Ewferson			

F.

Capt. Roger Franklin	20	0	0
Mr Robert Fletcher	15	0	0
Capt. John Field	15	0	0
Mr John Findat	10	0	0
Mr Henry Farrant, Sen.	10	0	0
Mr John Farrant, Sen.	10	0	0
Mr Jacob Finch	10	0	0
Mrs Mary Farrant	7	0	0
Capt. John Farrant	3	0	0
Mr James Figgins	1	0	0
Mr Charles Franks	1	0	0
Mrs Alice Flint	1	0	0
Mr Giles Firman			
Mr Thomas Franks			
Mr Cuthbert Finkle			
Mr John Ford			
Mr Henry Farrant, Jun.			

G.

Capt. Samuel Gillam	10	0	0
Mr James Glenn	6	0	0
Mr Joseph Gollop	5	0	0
Mr William Gunton	5	0	0
Mrs Elizabeth Godsalve	5	0	0
Mr Francis Goatham	3	0	0
Mr William Garland	2	15	0
Mr Edward Glover	1	0	0
Mrs Elizabeth Gale	2	10	0
Mr Ralph Godfrey	1	0	0
Capt. Gale			

H.

Mr Joshua Heath	30	0	0
Capt. Wilfrid Hart	20	0	0
Capt. Charles Hallifax	15	0	0
Capt. Thomas Hill	10	0	0
Mr John Hone	10	0	0
Mr Tim. Hawkins	7	0	0
Mr William Hinton	5	0	0
Mr Nicholas Heather	3	0	0
Mr John Hollis	3	0	0
Mr Nathaniel Hanbury	3	0	0
Mr John Haddon	3	2	6
Mr John Hall	1	10	0
Mr Joseph Hoar	1	0	0
(*sic*) Mr Truhart	1	1	6
Mr John Harris			
Mrs Hudson			
Mr John Henderson			
Mr Hook			

I.

Capt. Stephen Jerom	20	0	0
Mrs Elizabeth Jacob	5	0	0
Mr William Johnson	5	0	0

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	£	s.	d.
Mr Thomas Jarret	5	0	0
Mr Thomas Joyner	1	10	0
Mr Ireland			

K.

Mrs Robarta Knight	5	0	0
Mr William Knott	3	0	0
Mr John Kitely			
Capt. William Kingsland			

L.

The Revd. Dr Edward Lovel	20	0	0
Mr John Low	15	0	0
Mr John Lithered	4	6	0
Mrs Elizabeth Love	4	0	0
Mr John Luin	3	0	0
Mrs Layton	3	4	6
Mr Jeremiah Long	2	10	0
Mr Nathaniel Lowther	2	3	0
Mr John Lambart	2	0	0
Mr Shadrick Lister	1	0	0
Mr Lane			
Capt. Lorton			

M.

Capt. Stephen Maxted	10	0	0
Capt. John Mackmoth	10	0	0
Mr John Mazie	10	0	0
Capt. Thomas Matthews	10	0	0
Mr John Mell	5	0	0
Mrs Mary Mortimer	2	0	0
Mr Charles Mason	2	3	0
Mr Edward Muckle	2	0	0
Mr Richard Merick	2	0	0
Mr Samuel Moore	1	0	0
Mr Edward Medhurst	1	0	0
Mr Robert Martin	1	1	6
Mrs Mary Mouton	1	1	6
Mr Walter Mell			
Capt. John Martin			
Capt. Martin			

N.

Capt. John Norris	10	0	0
Mr William Norris	5	0	0
Mr Thomas Nott	3	0	0
Mr John Newman	3	0	0
Mr James Norcome	1	0	0
Mrs Mary Newton	1	0	0

O.

Mr William Ongley	5	0	0
Mr John Owen	1	10	0
Mr William Ogle	5	0	0

P.

Capt. Thomas Pooke	20	0	0
Mr Thomas Philips	10	0	0
Capt. James Pamfleet	10	0	0
Mr William Parker	5	0	0
Mr Samuel Pew	5	0	0
Mr William Platt	3	0	0
Mr Thomas Parr	5	0	0
Mr William Philips	2	0	0
Mr William Pable	1	0	0
Mrs Deborah Parsons	1	0	0
Mrs Elizabeth Penn	1	1	6
Mr Joseph Parker	2	3	0
Mr Lawrence Popleton	2	0	0
Mrs Perch			

R.

Nicholas Roope, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr Alexander Roberts	15	0	0
Capt. John Rose	10	0	0
Capt. John Rease	5	0	0
—— Reed	5	0	0
Mrs Rose Renouf	5	0	0
Mr Thomas Reyley	3	0	0
Mrs Ann Richardson	1	10	0
Mr Jeremiah Rosher, Sen.	1	0	0
Mr Ralph Richardson			
Mr Edmond Raynor			
Capt. Joseph Redding			
Mr Reed			

S.

Mr Jonas Shish	16	0	0
Mr Edward Swallow	15	0	0
Mr Charles Shish	5	0	0
Mrs Hannah Sax	10	0	0
Mr Richard Stiles	10	0	0
Mr Jeffrey Saffery	5	0	0

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	£	s.	d.
Mr Francis Sheldon	5	0	0
Mrs Sarah Seaman	5	0	0
Mr Charles Stow	5	0	0
Capt. Peter Saunders	5	7	6
Mr Nathaniel Stisson	5	0	0
Mr Nicolas Stiles	5	0	0
Mr Samuel Sanders	3	0	0
Mr Abraham Shooter	3	0	0
Mr John Showell	2	0	0
Mrs Martha Sumars	2	1	6
Mrs Rebecca Saunders	1	3	6
Mrs Elizabeth Standford	1	0	0
Mr Richard Spearman			
Mr John Streeton			
Mr Thomas Stears			
Mrs Smart			
Mr Henry Sumars			
Mr Scroggs			
Mr Spooner			

T.

Mr James Taylor	15	0	0
—— Tibington	10	0	0
Mrs Philis Tanner	5	0	0
Mr Volentine Teed	3	0	0
Mr Timothy Tredway	3	0	0
Mr Thomas Thwaits	3	0	0
Mr John Towers			
Mr Thomas Tyer			
Mrs Mary Turley	1	0	0
Mr Thomas Tyers			
Capt. Tuder			
Capt. Tibington			

W.

	£	s.	d.
Capt. Warren	10	0	0
Mr George Wood	10	0	0
Mr Abraham Wells	10	0	0
Mr George Whinnel	10	0	0
Mr John Weales	5	0	0
Capt. Jonathan Wicken	5	0	0
Mr John Whittingham	5	0	0
Mr Joseph Wade	5	0	0
Mrs Anne Wood	1	1	6
Mr George West	1	10	0
Mr Thomas Wales	2	3	0
Mr John Whetstone			
Mr Joseph Williams			
Mr Robert Woodford			
Mrs Elizabeth Wall	1	0	0
Capt. Ward			
Capt. Wood			
Mr Matthias Wallraven			

Y.

Capt. Thomas Young	10	0	0
Totals brought from above, viz.—			
Collected by Briefs, and other pious Donors, not of our Parish	1378	6	8
Collected from the Inhabitants, who piously gave, granted, and raised by Act of Parliament on Burials, &c.	1200	0	0

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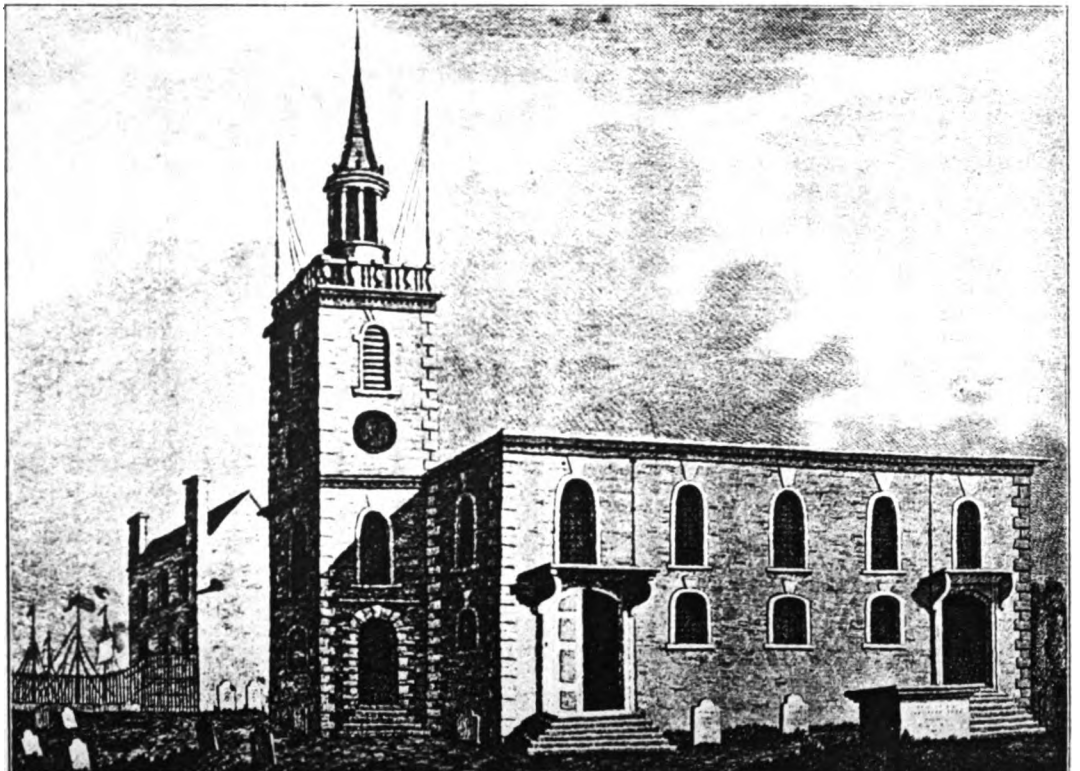

ROTHERHITHE PARISH CHURCH.

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CHAPTER XI.

THE REBUILDING OF THE PARISH CHURCH, 1714-15.

THE dilapidated state of the old Mediæval Church of St Mary, Rotherhithe, had for many years been a cause of grave anxiety and continual expense to the Churchwardens and parishioners; and at length it became clear that it must be pulled down and rebuilt on the same site.

The question of ways and means then arose and it was determined to present a petition to Parliament for a grant in aid.

The time seemed favourable for this appeal. The country was at peace after the long Continental wars; and it was thought right that a natural thankoffering should be made for the victories of the Duke of Marlborough. The new Cathedral of St Paul's had now been completed after the Great Fire, and it stood in all the freshness of its white Portland stone, a thing of beauty for the citizens of London to rejoice at.

A large Parliamentary Grant was voted for the erection of Fifty New Churches for the Metropolis to supply the great need for additional Church accommodation for the growing population in the suburbs of London.

The Rotherhithe people thought they had a good case to show for a share in this grant, and they presented their petition in the following terms:

Extract from a Book in British Museum Library, entitled "Law cases" 1696–1767. *Index mark* 516–on–17. *No.* 48 (*made by Mr H. F. Waddington, Mch.* 5, 1892).

Reasons. The case of the inhabitants of Rotherhithe: showing the Necessity of Pulling down, Rebuilding, and enlarging their Parish-Church.

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For Pulling down and Rebuilding.

I. The Said Church standing very low and near the Banks of the Thames, is often overflowed, whereby the Foundation of the Church and Tower is rotted and in great danger of Falling; and if not speedily Rebuilt, will become useless.

For Enlarging.

II. Tho' the said Church was Large enough Four Hundred Years ago, when the same was first Built, yet since the Parishioners are so Encreased, that now it is not capable of holding One Third Part of them.

Parish not able to raise money.

III. The inhabitants consisting of Sea-men and Sea-faring men in general, have Sustained great Losses by Sea during a long War; several having been taken Prisoners into France, others Killed and Drowned in the Service of the Government, and the families of such who have been kill'd are now become so Chargeable to the Parish, that they are not able to Contribute towards the Rebuilding and Enlarging the said Church, which upon the best Survey will amount to above 4000*l.*

Note.

About 30 years ago the said Parish (being within the Bills of Mortality) Paid about Fourscore Pounds a Year, towards the Support of their Poor; and they now Pay above Seven Hundred Pounds per Annum.

Parishioners bring coals from Newcastle.

Lastly. The Parishioners being chiefly Seamen and Water-men, who venture their lives in fetching those Coals from Newcastle, which pay for the Rebuilding the Churches in London, and Parts adjacent.

It is therefore humbly Prayed, That by Continuing the Duty which is Laid on Coals, For the Adorning and Beautifying the Cathedral of St Paul's, which ends in May 1716, or by such other Ways and Means as shall seem most fit, The Said Parishioners may be enabled to Rebuild and Enlarge their said Church and Tower.

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The Petition was not successful; but the Parishioners were not to be discouraged, and they courageously set to work to help themselves; and by large subscriptions, and from the proceeds of a Brief, and likewise by a somewhat singular method whereby the amount paid towards the New Building entitled the subscriber to a sitting in Church as well as to a vault when required for his own use or for those who might die of his family, the new Church was finally completed and duly consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese. The Old Tower stood for some years longer, but eventually it was replaced by the present tower and spire. And although there remains no record of the event we can have little doubt that the opening of the new Parish Church was a source of great satisfaction to all the inhabitants of Rotherhithe at that period.

The internal arrangements of the fabric were mainly the same as those of us who were living before 1876 can remember, namely, galleries all round the Church, a pulpit, Rector's desk, and clerk's desk with large service books, family pews of all shapes and sizes, and a row of benches for the poorer sort in the Middle Aisle.

The Organ was not purchased until some years later; and it is probable that a small orchestra of musical instruments led the Hymns and Psalms which at that time were sung in Church from the Metrical Version of Sternhold and Hopkins or of Tate and Brady. The practice of chanting the Psalms and Canticles was left to the Cathedral choirs and was not used in Parish Churches till some sixty years ago.

The Annual Collections for the Charity School were always made the occasion for special Hymns and Sermons. Some copies of these Hymn papers are still in existence. The Hymn was usually written for the day by a local poet. One of these old Service papers came to light in a strange way when the side galleries were being pulled down. It had slipped down between the floor-board and the gallery-front, and so was lost, till the floor was taken up.

We reprint it in the Appendix as a curious relic of a bygone time.

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The Churchwardens stood at the Church door at the close of the service with a Charity boy and girl at their side clothed in the quaint dress of the time, and a goodly collection was gathered in the old painted plates bearing the inscription "Remember the Poor Charity Children for God's sake and your own."

As time went on, the Sunday Schools were established in 1798 and they too had their Sermons. And then in 1835 the new National Schools were set on foot and the yearly collections became yet more numerous; and the yearly School Treat of all the Day and Sunday Schools of the Parish was the occasion of a Service in Church which taxed the energies of the Wardens to provide seats for them all.

Here is a specimen of the arrangements made:

ANNUAL SCHOOL TREAT, ST MARY, ROTHERHITHE.

Order of sitting at Church.

To enter the Church under the Tower by the Middle Doors.

The Workhouse Girls, the Blue Girls, to occupy the Free Seats and the North side of the Pulpit.

The Deptford Road Girls' School to occupy the Pews as far as needed, on the North side of the Middle Aisle.

The Trinity School Girls to occupy Pews on the South side of the Middle Aisle, as far as needed.

The Clarence Street School Girls to occupy Mr Cristall's and Mr Dummelow's Pews, and the Seats behind the Pulpit.

To enter by the South Door.

The Christ Church Girls, the Girls belonging to Mr Crouch's School, and the girls belonging to St Paul's School, and to occupy the Pews in the South Aisle, as far as needed.

To enter by the North Door.

The Workhouse Boys file off at the West Gate of the Churchyard by the Granary, and entering by the North Gate and the North Door, occupy the Two Pews nearest the Vestry, on the South side of the North Aisle.

To enter by the South Door.

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The Charity School Boys enter the Church by the South Door, and occupy the whole of the Free Seats along the South Gallery, and part of the Top Gallery.

To enter by the North Door.

The United Society School file off at the West Gate of the Churchyard by the Granary, and entering by the North Door, occupy the Top Gallery in the North Gallery.

The Trinity School Boys follow the United Society School, and sit in the North Gallery.

The Rotherhithe Ancient Sunday School Boys follow the Trinity School Boys, and entering by the North Door, occupy the Pews in the North Aisle.

The Deptford Road School Boys follow, and enter by the North Door, and occupy the remaining Pews in the North Aisle.

The Christ Church Boys, Mr Crouch's School Boys, and St Paul's School Boys, all enter by the North Door, and occupy the remaining Free Seats in the North Gallery.

And if there should be any deficiency of room in the Gallery, the Churchwardens will seat them where it shall be found most convenient.

Every Master and Mistress will give very particular directions to the Two Children who walk first in their Schools, as to the Door at which they enter the Church, and the exact place where they are to sit in the Church; and the point in the field to which they must go.

Every Flag Bearer, from No. I to No. XV, must attend very accurately to his orders about giving up the Flags to Mr Sanders, and receiving them again from him, and placing the poles in their proper sockets in the field.

None of the Children must make a noise in going to Church.

The Teachers will walk as near as may be, at equal distances from each other, and will sit with their Children at Church.

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CHAPTER XII.

OLD ROTHERHITHE FAMILIES.

CAPTAIN ROGER TWEEDY.

THE Puritan families had a long spell of supremacy during the incumbency of Mr Gataker, and great pains were taken to ensure the permanence of this form of religion in Rotherhithe. Still we find some few Royalist families which continued here through the troublous times of the Commonwealth, patiently waiting for better days to come when the "tyranny should be overpast."

Among these, Captain Tweedy was a constant friend to the old order of Church and State.

His epitaph, p. 136, inscribed on a slab of black marble affixed to the north wall of the church, is a quaint statement of his case, and doubtless it would be true of many another son of the Church of England hoping against hope to live to see the Liturgy restored, and Church and King come by their own again.

By his will, dated June 1, 1653, Roger Tweedy, of Mile End, Stepney, Esq., gave and bequeathed unto and to the use of the parish of Rotherheath or Redriffe, in honour of GOD and for His sake, so much money as should purchase lands or tenements of the clear yearly value of £5. 4*s*. per annum, to be invested in bread every Sunday throughout the whole year, 2*s*. worth (after the sermon or prayers) amongst the poorest seamen and seamen's widows of that town. And that the minister, churchwardens, and the whole vestry, with the collectors for the poor, should be feoffees in trust, to take care that the said bread be given every Sabbath day to twelve

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poor people as aforesaid, that shall deserve most compassion; and the testator directed his executors to take security that the said £5. 4s. was employed as aforesaid and not otherwise; and that his children's children, from age to age, make enquiry once every year whether the said money were distributed according to his will.

Warrant for issuing letters of marque granted by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty during the year 1629[1]:

Date	Owner of Ship	Name of Ship	Tonnage	Captain or Master	Reference
1629 April 16	John Stroud and others	George Bonaventure of London	240	Roger Tweedy	Vol. cxxx p. 19

JAMES JANEWAY, M.A., OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

The father of this good man was a minister at Kershall in Hertfordshire. He lived privately after leaving the University; and when the times allowed, he set up a Meeting at Rotherhithe, where he had a very numerous auditory, and a great reformation was wrought amongst many. But this (says his biographer) so enraged the high party, that several of them threatened to shoot Mr Janeway, which accordingly was attempted; for as he was once walking upon Rotherhithe Wall, a fellow shot at him, and the bullet went through his hat, but, as Providence ordered, it did him no hurt. The soldiers pulled down the place in which he preached, which obliged his people to build another, which was required to be larger to receive the hearers. Soon after it was built a number of troopers came in when Mr Janeway was preaching, and Mr Kentish[2] sat behind him in the pulpit; they got upon a bench, and cried aloud, "Down with him! down with him!" and at that instant the bench broke, and they all fell down.

[1] See *Calendar of State Papers*, Domestic Series. Charles I. 1629–1631.

[2] This it is believed was Mr Richard Kentish, who had been ejected from St Katharine's by the Tower.

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In the confusion which this occasioned Mr Janeway came out of the pulpit, and some of the people having thrown a coloured coat over him and put a white hat on his head, he got out unobserved. But they seized Mr Kentish and took him to the Marshalsea, where he was some time kept a prisoner.

At another time, when Mr Janeway was preaching at a gardener's house, several troopers came to seize him there; but he threw himself on the ground, and his friends covered him with cabbage leaves, by which he escaped again.

He died March 16, 1674, and was succeeded by Mr Rosewell.

Mr Janeway was a man of eminent piety, an affectionate preacher, and very useful in his station. In his last illness his mind was under a sort of cloud by reflecting on his aptness to slubber (i.e. hurry) over private duties when he was much engaged in public work.

However, Mr Nathaniel Vincent, in his funeral sermon, says that "It pleased God to dissipate the cloud, and help him to discern the uprightness of his heart with satisfaction"; and that not long before he died, he said: "He could now as easily die as shut his eyes," adding, "Here am I, longing to be silent in the dust, and to enjoy Christ in glory."

Another funeral sermon was preached for him by Mr Ryther, of Wapping.

A beautiful portrait of Mr James Janeway is engraved in an edition of the Reverend Dr Calamy's great work on the *Lives of the Ejected Nonconformists*, as abridged by Samuel Palmer, vol. III. p. 512. His countenance must have been singularly sweet and benevolent. He wore long flowing hair, falling upon his shoulders, and dressed in the black vesture and white bands of the period.

The following is a list of his works:—Heaven upon Earth; or the Best Friend in the Worst Times, 1670. The Life of his brother, Mr John Janeway, 1673. The Saint's Encouragement to Diligence, 1677. A Token for Children, 1671. The Murderer punished and pardoned; with the Life and Death of T. Savage; and a Funeral Sermon for Mr T. Mousley

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An Antient Mansion at Greenland Dock Rotherhithe, belonging to J. Wells Esq.r he bought it of the
Old Duke of Bedford who formerly resided there. this Drawing was made 1796

The Duke of Bedford's residence near Greenland Dock, inherited from the Howland family, long since pulled down.

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with a Narrative of his Life, etc. Sermon in the Supplement to Morning Exercise at Cripplegate on the Duties of Masters and Servants. His Legacy to his Friends, 1674. § Also a recommendatory Epistle to Mr Ryder's "Seaman's Preacher."

The Congregation of Nonconformists originally founded by Mr James Janeway still exists in this neighbourhood. It flourished for many years under the pastorate of the late Reverend Mr Rose, and subsequently under the ministry of the Reverend J. Farren. Many old inhabitants still remember the building as "Rose's Chapel" in Jamaica Road, Bermondsey.

WILLIAM STEVENS.

William Stevens, late of Rederiffe, mariner, by his will dated Aug. 4, 1645, gave and bequeathed the sum of £110 to such as should be the ministers and churchwardens of the said parish, to be paid to them within two years next after his decease, to purchase lands to the value of £5 per annum in the names of twelve of the best and ablest men of the said parish for the time being, and their heirs for ever.....to allow and give to six of the poorest and most ancient inhabitants of the said town of Rederiffe upon every Sabbath day in the year for ever, two pence apiece in bread and two pence apiece in money....

THE DUKES OF BEDFORD.

The only nobleman who was ever a resident in Rotherhithe was the Duke of Bedford, who by marriage with the heiress of the Howlands of Streatham, inherited an old mansion[1] near Greenland Dock together with all the Howland property here.

This house could only have been used as a riverside residence from time to time, and was sold to Mr Wells, and

[1] The old residence was in Rotherhithe Street. See Lysons' *Environs of London*, vol. I. pt. 3, p. 470. Mr Wells' house was formerly the residence of "*the Old Duke of Bedford.*" A gift of land for the United Society's School-house and School-room is recorded to have been made by Francis Duke of Bedford, by Indenture dated July 1, 1791.

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eventually pulled down; but the Duke of Bedford, recognizing the responsibilities of property, gave a site of land in Rotherhithe Street for the purpose of a School for Boys, and it was named The United Society School.

The inscription over the door of the schoolmaster's house still records the gift, and the school remains to this day as a boys' school in connection with Holy Trinity Church.

On a petition of William, Duke of Bedford, Lady Rachel Russell, relict of Lord William Russell, his son, and Elizabeth Howland (on behalf of Wriothesley, Marquis of Tavistock, son of the said Lord William and Lady Rachel Russell, and the Marchioness his wife, daughter of the said Elizabeth), dated 11th February, 1695–6, and setting forth that a dry dock had been made at the expense of £2500 and praying powers to raise the further sum of £12,000 for making also a wet dock; an Act was passed for that purpose which had the royal assent 10th April, 1696.

The Benbow Family.

It is stated in Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey*, vol. I. p. 228, that "Hanover Street in Rotherhithe, formerly called Wintershull Street, is still remembered as the birthplace of Admiral Benbow—another of our naval heroes, of whom an interesting memoir is given in the *Biographia Britannica* from the communications of Paul Cater, Esq., a son-in-law of the Admiral."

But this statement is erroneous. The birthplace of Admiral Benbow was Shrewsbury, and not Rotherhithe; and a view of the house on Coton Hill, in which he was born about 1650, may be seen in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1809. See also *Dictionary of National Biography*, s.v. But although Admiral Benbow himself was not a native of Rotherhithe, there are several of his name in the Church Registers:

1666 William Benbow Buryed September 20
1668 Elizabeth Benbow buryed Aprill 1

Hanover Street or Hanover Bay, as it was known to our older inhabitants, is now re-named *Neston Street*.

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Admiral Sir John Leake.

This brave officer was born at Rotherhithe in June, 1656. He was the son of Captain Richard Leake, Master Gunner of England, and having early in life joined the Navy he served as a midshipman in the war with the Dutch in 1673. He was subsequently for some time in the merchant service, and made two or three voyages to the Mediterranean, but ultimately returned to the Royal Navy. He was made Master Gunner of the *Neptune* in 1675, and held that situation until 1688, when he was appointed to the *Drake* fireship.

In the War of the Succession against the French and Spaniards, his services were numerous and important, especially in the reduction of Barcelona in 1706 and the capture of Minorca in 1708.

On the death of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, Sir John Leake was made Admiral of the White and Commander of the fleet. In 1708 he was elected Member for Rochester, and in 1709 was appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty, but declined the place of First Lord. In 1712 he was appointed Commander of the expedition to take possession of Dunkirk, but after the accession of George the First in 1714, to the disgrace of the ministry of that day, he was deprived of his offices, and thenceforth passed his time in seclusion until his decease at Greenwich on the 21st August, 1720. He was buried on the 30th of the same month at Stepney, where he had erected a monument for his deceased wife.

In the Church Register Book of the parish of St Mary, Rotherhithe, we find the following entry:

> Anno 1656 Birthes
> John fil: Richardi et Elizabethæ Lake. Borne July 3.

The Punnett Family.

The Reverend John Punnett, whose father was a Rotherhithe ship-builder, was for many years Vicar of St Erth, near Hayle, in the county of Cornwall. His son, John Trefusis Punnett, was a member of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and

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graduated B.A. as a Senior Optime and Second Class in the Classical Tripos of 1857. Mr Punnett was related to the Beatson family, long resident in Rotherhithe, his sister having married Mr John Beatson.

Mr John Beatson.

This famous shipbreaker was of Scottish descent, the family having received grants of land in Fifeshire in 1645. Lieut. John Beatson, R.N., was nephew and heir of Robert Beatson, LL.D., author of *Military and Naval Memories*, etc. David Beatson, son of Lieut. John Beatson, came to London about 1790 when only 19 or 20 years of age, and joined some cousins who were shipbreakers at the Surrey Canal Wharf, and eventually succeeded to the business.

He was succeeded by his son John Beatson, who continued it till his death in 1858.

He broke up most of the old East India Company's ships, among others the *Sesostris* and the *Thames*.

Of Government vessels the best known were the *Téméraire*, the *Bellerophon*, and the *Justitia*, which was the last Government convict ship.

A Dutch man-of-war, the *Ire Crone*, presumably taken as a prize, was also broken up at Rotherhithe. Mr Beatson was then Churchwarden of the parish.

The Hay Family.

Mr Charles Hay, son of Mr Francis Theodore Hay, was for many years resident in Rotherhithe; he was a lighterman and barge-builder in a large way of business. He built a residence for himself in the Lower Road, which was after his death occupied by Mrs Murdoch, sister of Mr John Beatson, shipbreaker, and was eventually sold to the trustees of Miss Hyndman's Charity for a Vicarage House for the parish of Christ Church. He died in 1868. In the year 1839 his sisters, Mrs Eleanor Russell and Miss Elizabeth Hay, in order to perpetuate the memory of their father, Mr Francis Theodore Hay, who had died in 1838, gave a donation of £200 (3 per cent. Consols), the interest of which they directed

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to be applied by the rector and churchwardens in the purchase of good dark blue great-coats and cloaks for the benefit of six or eight poor men and women belonging to the parish of Rotherhithe, watermen and their wives or widows always having the preference. The recipients of these coats and cloaks are annually chosen at Christmas.

Mr Francis Theodore Hay was buried in the churchyard, in a tomb at the west end of the church.

Mr Francis Theodore Hay, grandson of the above, still carries on the lighter-barge business in the same spot in Rotherhithe, although he has for many years lived in France[1], Mr John M. Paice being his representative here, in conjunction with Mr Grey.

A daughter of Mr Charles Hay was Mrs Legg, wife of Mr George Legg, architect, who was for many years surveyor to the Vestry of Rotherhithe.

Mr Jonathan Garth.

In the north-west corner of the churchyard is a substantial monument marking the resting-place of Jonathan Garth and Jane his wife. Jonathan was born about 1731, but apparently not at Rotherhithe; and there is no trace of him in the parish register prior to the birth of the first of his many children, except that in 1759 he was apparently a witness to the marriage of George and Deborah Garth. His eldest son was called Benjamin, and another son was called Brewster Garth.

Now in Bolam and Headlam, in the county of Durham, a family of Garth had been settled for many generations, from 1593 at least. Francis Garth of Bolam married Mary, daughter of Sir Francis Brewster, who was knighted by Charles II at Whitehall in 1670, and became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1674. One of the children of this marriage was Benjamin Garth, who was baptized at Gainford Church in 1703, and would be about 28 years old when Jonathan was born. Benjamin went to Hartlepool, and probably from that town Jonathan migrated to Rotherhithe. The facts that Jonathan called his first son Benjamin, and another son Brewster, point

[1] Mr F. T. Hay died on August 25, 1906, aged 84 years.

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to the conclusion that he came from the Durham family, which had produced not only the eminent physician and poet, Sir Samuel Garth (knighted in 1715), but also Generals George Garth and Thomas Garth (Equerry to George III). The pedigree of this branch of the Garths will be found in Surtees' *History of the County of Durham.* What was probably another branch of the same family had been for several centuries settled at Morden, in Surrey, and this branch was descended from Edward Garth, one of the six Clerks in Chancery, who purchased the manor of Morden in 1553. The arms of both branches of the family are identical.

Jonathan was a man of substance, and carried on business as a ship's chandler in a house on the Platform, which has only recently been demolished. One of his sons, Henry, died in 1857 at Bromley, Kent, leaving two sons, Thomas Pocknell Garth and Samuel Garth. A daughter of the former, Eliza Frances, is the wife of Mr Frank Evans, of Lincoln's Inn, barrister, who has supplied such of this information about Jonathan and his family as could not be obtained from the register of St Mary's Church. Jonathan died in 1794, as stated on his monument, which also recorded (for the characters are now almost illegible) the deaths of some of his children and grandchildren.

The Rosher Family.

About 1820 the Rosher family, who had dwelt in Rotherhithe for some 200 years, migrated lower down the river to Northfleet, where they built a church, to which a district parish called Rosherville was assigned.

This church was endowed by George Rosher, who was born in Rotherhithe in 1803.

The well-known Rosherville Gardens obtained that name from the new parish of Rosherville in which they were situated. They were, however, started as "The Kent Zoological and Botanical Gardens" by a company which obtained a lease of the site from the Rosher family; and they originally aimed at scientific objects. But as a scientific resort they failed to

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pay, and a subsequent tenant developed them into a place of popular amusement.

The Roshers were connected with the family of Burch of Limehouse.

There is a Rosher vault in Rotherhithe Churchyard.

THE STRANACK FAMILY.

Captain Robert Stranack and his wife were natives of Margate. In the year 1826 they removed to London with their family, settling in Princes Street, Rotherhithe.

Their eldest son John was a captain in the London Steam Navigation Company's service and lived in the Lower Road with his family.

His three daughters were married, one to Mr Weeks, a linen-draper in good business on the Platform, another to Captain Minchell, and the third to Captain Tyack, whom she survived for many years, dying recently in her 86th year.

The youngest son, Captain Henry Stranack, is still living. He was educated in Holland in order to acquire foreign languages. Returning to England in 1840, he began his seafaring life, being apprenticed to the General Steam Navigation Company, and remained in the service until 1877, when deafness obliged him to retire.

THE PHILLIPS FAMILY.

Captain William Phillips came to live in Rotherhithe about the year 1833, in consequence of his having entered the service of the General Steam Navigation Company. Captain and Mrs Phillips were both natives of Harwich, and his family had been settled there for generations past. Thomas Phillips was Mayor of Harwich in 1727, and died during the year of his Mayoralty. His son was an Alderman of Harwich. Captain Wm. Phillips continued to reside in Princes Street, Rotherhithe, till his death. He was an upright man, greatly respected in the parish, and enjoying the confidence of the directors of his Company. As a devout Churchman he was a

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kind supporter of the Rector and of all the institutions of the parish. He had a large family, of whom his eldest daughter and one of his sons, Mr Alfred Fynn Phillips, still reside here. The family are warm supporters of the parish church.

Many sea-captains were living in Rotherhithe in the nineteenth century, Captains Lulham, Cox, Dixon, and others, in addition to the Stranacks and Captain Phillips. In those days it was of importance to them to have their homes on the riverside near their vessels which, when in port, lay in the Pool.

But the railway now running through the Thames Tunnel enables master-mariners to live in New Cross, Brockley, and other southern suburbs, and yet to be able to reach their ships quickly by train.

Mrs Bayly.

Mrs Hannah Bayly, widow, by her will dated Feb. 22, 1756, after certain bequests and devises, bequeathed the residue of her personal estate and effects in trust, to dispose of the same amongst "such poor unhappy objects who should be widows, resident and parishioners of St Mary, Rotherhithe." The capital sum of this charity consists of £6349 (3 per cent. Consols), and the trustees are enabled under a scheme sanctioned by the Court of Chancery to pay 35 widows a small yearly pension.

The Hawks Family.

Mr Robert Shafto Hawks, who was for many years Vestry Clerk of the parish of Rotherhithe, was the son of Mr Edward Hawks, a shipbuilder on the Tyne, who afterwards settled in Rotherhithe.

Edward Hawks was a younger brother of Sir Robert Shafto Hawks, Knight, of Clavering Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne, a partner in the Gateshead Ironworks, who was knighted by the Prince Regent 21 April, 1817. He took an active part in raising the Corps of the Northumberland

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Volunteers at the beginning of the 19th century, and showed so much courage and zeal in suppressing the riots in the north in the winter of 1816 that his services were publicly recognized by the honour of knighthood thus conferred upon him.

In the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, Newcastle, a monumental tablet records his death on 23 February, 1840, at the age of 71 years; also that of Hannah Pembroke, Lady Hawks, who died 11 Oct., 1863, aged 97 years.

Likewise that of David Shafto Hawks, Esq., his son and heir, who died 8 Sept., 1860, unmarried.

The family was founded by William Hawks, a foreman smith in the employment of Sir Ambrose Crowley's heirs at the Swalwell Ironworks, who by his industry and frugality was enabled to set up a forge at Gateshead-on-Tyne in November, 1749.

Mr Robert Shafto Hawks, of Rotherhithe and of Borough High Street, Southwark, Solicitor, was, as we have said, the son of Mr Edward Hawks, shipbuilder. He was for many years the trusted adviser and much respected Vestry Clerk of Rotherhithe, and conducted all the business of the parish under successive Churchwardens and Overseers. He married Miss Jane Martha Stokes, of Roughton in the Parish of Worfield, near Bridgnorth in the County of Salop. Eventually he removed from his residence in Paradise Street, Rotherhithe, to Hertford, where he died. Mr Hawks left by his will a sum of money at his widow's death to pay two additional pensioners of Mrs Bayly's Charity.

His brother-in-law, Mr James J. Stokes, became his partner, and they were eventually appointed Joint Vestry Clerks. Mr Stokes sprung from an old Shropshire family, claiming descent from Adrian Stokes.

Mr James J. Stokes was married to Miss Agnes Beatson, daughter of Mr John Beatson, the famous shipbreaker of Rotherhithe Street; he has a large family of sons and daughters; and although with the creation of the Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey his old duties as Vestry Clerk have ceased, he still continues to discharge the duties

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of Clerk to the Rotherhithe Consolidated Charities and is the trusted legal adviser of the Rector and Churchwardens in all matters of parochial and other business.

In addition to the bequest of Mr R. Shafto Hawks, above mentioned, a further augmentation of this valuable charity has recently been made by the late Mr Samuel Ward Copping, of Landale Lodge, Lower Road, an old inhabitant of Rotherhithe, who rose from a humble condition of life to a position of considerable affluence. By his will, dated 1904, he bequeathed £1000 to augment Mrs Bayly's Charity.

Mr James Kid.

Mr James Kid by his will, August, 1851, bequeathed the sum of £600 to the rector and churchwardens of Rotherhithe in trust, to be laid out "to the best of their judgment in rendering more acceptable the means of education to the poorer classes of this Parish."

This is the only educational charity which has been placed in the hands of the rector and churchwardens, and when it became available after the death of Mr Kid's housekeeper, who had a life interest in it, after careful consideration it was determined to offer free scholarships to deserving scholars of the Church Day Schools of the parish, to continue their education at St Olave's Grammar School in Southwark, which had been shortly before that time thrown open to the children of non-parishioners.

These valuable scholarships have been the means of advancing the interests of many deserving lads whose feet are thus placed upon the lower rungs of the educational ladder, by which they may eventually ascend to the highest positions at the Universities of the land.

Mr John Sprunt.

In 1877, another old Rotherhithe man, John Sprunt, by his will, dated 14th November, 1868, bequeathed £200 Consols to the churchwardens of St Mary, Rotherhithe, for six poor widows, share and share alike.

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Samuel Gillam, Esq., J.P., Surgeon, of Rotherhithe.

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In the parish church, on large boards, these various benefactors are duly recorded in thankful remembrance of past good deeds and as an incitement to others "to go and do likewise." The old alms-box by the church door is inscribed with the words of Holy Writ: "Remember the poor"; and the old collecting plates which were held at the door by the wardens and other friends of the Charity School are inscribed in gold letters, "Remember the poor Charity children, for GOD'S sake and your own."

SAMUEL GILLAM, J.P.

This gentleman was a surgeon and a magistrate long resident in Rotherhithe, and must have been one of the best known characters in South London during the middle of the eighteenth century.

The *European Magazine* of August, 1793, gives the following account of him:

"Samuel Gillam was born at Rotherhithe in 1722. His father, Samuel Gillam, was a captain in the Honourable East India Company's Service. His mother was Ann Hunt, whose family resided in Rotherhithe for upwards of 200 years.

He was educated at Cheam School under the Reverend Mr D. Saxey, who wished him to proceed to one of the Universities; but he himself wished to be a medical man, and he was bound to Mr John Stokoe, a surgeon, who died before his apprenticeship was expired. The remainder of his time he passed with Mr John Belchier in Guy's Hospital, where he attended the lectures of Dr Nichols, and Messrs Girl and Sharp. He afterwards practised as a surgeon in Rotherhithe.

In 1745 he was very active in support of the Government, and shortly afterwards he was made Justice of the Peace for the County of Surrey.

In 1764 William Corbett was taken before Justice Gillam charged with murder, and was by him committed for trial. See p. 237.

Being intimate with Daniel Ponton, Esq., Chairman of Quarter Sessions at St Margaret's Hill, Mr Gillam became involved in a suit, in which much party obloquy was excited.

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On May 10, 1768, a riotous mob assembled before the King's Bench Prison, where Wilkes was confined. The Justices Ponton, Gillam and Eyre went with some troops to keep the peace, and the Riot Act was read. Justice Ponton was struck on the breast. Mr Gillam persuaded the people to disperse to their homes. Eventually a stone struck him on the temple and caused him to reel three or four yards backward; when, apprehending his life to be in danger, he called on the soldiers to fire. One man was killed. For this act Justice Gillam was tried at the Old Bailey in September, 1768, when, without a single witness being examined, he was honourably acquitted, and had a copy of his indictment given him.

In the year 1780 (that important and disgraceful period) Mr Gillam's house was threatened with destruction. Several young gentlemen of the neighbourhood came to him, and offered their services to defend him. Soon after they formed themselves into a Company, wore uniforms, and learned military exercise, making Mr Gillam their commander.

Mr Gillam married Rebecca, the only daughter of Samuel Towers, formerly a Commander in the Jamaica trade. By her he had three children, who all died young. This lady fell a victim to the rage of the mob of 1768, dying that year at Bath in consequence of affright.

For several years before his death Mr Gillam lost the use of his limbs, and seldom went abroad. He was however able to entertain a few select friends, preserving his powers of mind unimpaired till the last.

After a long and tedious illness he died on July 7, 1793, and was buried at Rotherhithe."

His portrait by Holloway is dated 1787.

His residence was a house in Paradise Street, in the open part facing Mill-Pond Bridge, and in the rear is an alley of small houses running through to Rotherhithe Wall. These cottages, which he evidently built himself, still preserve his name, being called "Gillam's Court."

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Mr Thomas Smith.

This gentleman deserves a place in these records. He was devoted to yachting on the Thames, and was one of the first members of the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

A monument on the south wall of the Church bears this inscription:

To the memory of the late
Mr Thomas Smith
Born in this Parish on the 7th June 1790
And died
At his residence in Princes Street
on the 25th May 1848
leaving a Widow and family
to deplore his loss.
This Tablet
To hold in memory
The good qualities and integrity
By which he endeared himself
To those who knew him
has been erected
By a subscription of members of
The Royal Thames Yacht Club
of which Society
he was from its formation
a Strenuous Supporter.

Mr Thornton Scovell (Secretary of the Royal Thames Yacht Club), writing under date 26 February, 1890, says:—"Thomas Smith was admitted a member of the (then) Thames Yacht Club on the 2nd Dec., 1824, and his address is given 'Surrey Canal,' and '45, Princes St., Rotherhithe,' and later on of '37, Princes St. and Parthenon Club.' He paid his last subscription on the 4th of May, 1848, and died that day three weeks. He had two yachts, the *Queen Victoria*, 22 ton cutter, and *Lady Louisa*, 12 ton cutter."

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Mr John Small Sedger.

For the following account of the Sedger family the writer is indebted to the kindness of Mr John S. Chambers, of "Yarraville," Melbourne, Australia, and his sister Mrs Patterson, of "St Margaret's," 2 Canham Road, South Norwood.

John Small Sedger lived and died in "Globe House[1]," the large house at the end of Globe Street (now called Beatson Street), near the Mast Pond. He had been a shipowner, but latterly had only two or three dry docks on the Thames: his business was principally carried on in Globe Dock. He possessed a large property in the part of Lower Rotherhithe; from Sweeting's Dock to Russell Street (now called Derrick Street[2]) he had a number of houses; he was highly respected and esteemed, and he was chosen a Guardian of the Poor, which office he held for many years, and was presented by the parishioners with a silver salver as a token of their appreciation of his services.

Mr Sedger had three sons, John, William, and Thomas, and several daughters.

John inherited the bulk of the property.

William was a sailor, and went with Captain Parry in search of the North-West Passage; he had a fall from an iceberg and fell into a consumption from the effects of the fall and fractured ribs. He just lived till the ships returned, when he reached home and died.

Thomas Small Sedger, the youngest son, was an M.A. of Queens' College, in the University of Cambridge, and entered into Holy Orders. He was Curate of Cooling, of New Buckenham, and of Rusland, and was subsequently Chaplain of the County Gaol at Stafford. He was the translator into English of Hugo Grotius' *de Veritate Religionis Christianæ*. He married late in life.

[1] This house was subsequently acquired by the Dock Company and pulled down.

[2] All historical links with the past are gradually being destroyed by the re-naming of old streets. The next generation will never know that the Duke of Bedford owned Russell Street, Rotherhithe, or that Neston Street now represents the once too notorious "Hanover Bay" and the Wintershull Street of still earlier days.

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Mary Sedger married a Mr Bushell, the architect of the King and Queen Granary in Rotherhithe Street, which is said to be the largest granary and in the longest street in London. It certainly is a vast structure and is built over a small creek of the river, so that barges can be unloaded beneath it. (This huge granary has been twice destroyed by fire.)

Hannah Sedger married Captain Crowe Nicholson, and left two daughters.

Harriet Leveridge Sedger married Mr George Pitt, Collector of the King's Taxes and Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages here. They lived in Paradise Row (now Union Road). Mrs Pitt died in 1868.

Rosina Sedger, the youngest, married Edward Chambers, son of Captain John Chambers, and her son is Mr John S. Chambers, of Melbourne.

Jane Sedger, the eldest daughter, married the Reverend Thomas Dealtrey, M.A., who claimed kindred with the ancient family of Dealtrey, of Loft-House Hall in the County of York.

Mr Dealtrey was educated at St Catharine's Hall in the University of Cambridge, and graduated LL.B. in 1828. After taking Holy Orders he held a curacy in the Diocese of Winchester, and in 1831 was appointed a Chaplain in the Honourable East India Company's service and went out with his wife to Calcutta. Dr Daniel Wilson, the Bishop of Calcutta, was at that time just consecrated, and he, soon after his arrival, appointed Mr Dealtrey Archdeacon of Calcutta, where for 14 years he faithfully discharged his arduous duties in that vast diocese.

In 1846 Dr Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury, conferred on Mr Dealtrey the degree of D.D. Coming home on furlough he was appointed to the charge of St John's Church, Bedford Row. About this time Dr Spencer, the Bishop of Madras, resigned his see, and the Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, offered it to Dr Dealtrey. He accepted the post and was consecrated Bishop of Madras, at the same time with Dr Hinds, Bishop of Norwich, and Dr Olivant, Bishop of Llandaff.

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Bishop Dealtrey died in 1861, leaving one son, Thomas, and one daughter. The latter married a clergyman.

Thomas Dealtrey was M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge. He took Orders, and was Curate of Raydon, in Suffolk, and of Brenchley, in Kent, which latter post he resigned in 1851; and becoming a chaplain to the H. E. I. Company, proceeded to Madras. His father appointed him to be his domestic chaplain and Archdeacon.

In 1871 he returned to England, and was presented to the Rectory of Swillington, York, from whence he was promoted to the Vicarage of Maidstone in the gift of the Primate, where he died about 1883.

John Small Sedger and his wife lie buried beneath the Church of St Mary, Rotherhithe, and the family is scattered far and wide.

John Sedger retired, and lived as a country gentleman near Croydon.

James Sedger was in Sir Charles Price's Bank in King William Street.

There was also a Christopher Sedger, a nephew of John Small Sedger, living in Rotherhithe.

Captain Thomas Coram.

It is believed that this excellent sea-captain, the noble-hearted founder of the Foundling Hospital, after his retirement from a seafaring life, took up his residence in Rotherhithe about the year 1722. Confirmation of this belief has not been found, although Rotherhithe is a place in which old mariners often settled when they ceased to go to sea. It is added that it was during his sojourn here that while traversing the streets, on his way to and from the city, he witnessed between this place and Tooley Street many distressing cases of children exposed through the indigence or heartlessness of their parents, which induced him to devise means for the future care of these unhappy foundlings, and to found the institution which will be for ever associated with his name.

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The Kelsey Family.

The members of this family have been very long resident in Rotherhithe. Mr John Kelsey was for many years a builder, residing in Paradise Street, and his brother Richard was the Surveyor to the Corporation of the City of London. He was the sculptor of the well-known statue of King William the Fourth which was erected on the occasion of the building of New London Bridge. It stands facing the bridge at the top of King William Street, and it was originally surrounded by an iron railing with four lamp-posts. These have long since been removed to give more room to the increasing traffic which at this point passes along King William Street, Gracechurch Street, and Cannon Street. The statue is a very dignified one of the "Sailor King," and the base of the upper pedestal on which it stands is fittingly enriched with a ship's cable.

The son of Mr John Kelsey, Mr William Henry Kelsey, still lives in Union Road, Rotherhithe, but no longer practises his business of builder and marble mason. His second wife was a daughter of the late Mr Hawksley of Rotherhithe. She died in March, 1906.

The Meriton Family.

These were seafaring people and good fighters. The inscription on a marble tablet on the south wall of the Church records the services of Henry Meriton.

In memory of
Henry Meriton, Esq^re^
whose remains together with those of
his Mother and Grandmother
rest in the vault beneath this Church.
He served the Honourable East India Company
in various appointments
with distinguished zeal, activity and fidelity
for more than forty years
And during the last fourteen

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filled the important office of
Superintendent of their Marine at Bombay
From whence having returned
in the month of April, 1826
He died on the seventh of the succeeding August
aged Sixty four Years.

Also of his Brother

Walter Allen Meriton, Esq^re^
who died the 31^st^ of October 1853, aged 88 years.

I am indebted for the subjoined information respecting them to the kindness of Mr C. H. Sanders, Royal Marines, of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

The following is also from Allen's *Battles of the British Navy*.

On the 3rd July, 1810, three outward bound E. I. Co.'s ships, the *Ceylon*, *Windham*, and *Astell*, Captains Henry Meriton, I. Stewart, and R. Hay, having on board 250 troops, when near the Island of Mayotta, were attacked, and after a very gallant defence the two first were captured by the French 40-gun frigates *Bellone* and *Minerve*, and the 18-gun corvette *Victor*. The *Ceylon* lost 6 killed and 21 wounded. The *Astell* escaped.

The following is from Orme's list of H. E. I. C. ships.

Henry Meriton, 3rd mate, *Pigot*, season 1782–3
2nd „ *Halsewell*, 1785–6 } [1]
1st „ *Bridgewater*, 1785–6 }
1st „ *Albion*, 1790–1
1st „ *Exeter*, 1792–3, 1794–5, 1797–8
Captain *Exeter*, 1799–1800, 1802–3, 1804–5, 1807–8
„ *Ceylon*, 1809–10

Walter Meriton was 2nd mate *Euphrates*, 1809–10, but this is not the brother of Henry who appears on the same monument, though I fancy some relation. He died 11 Dec. 1872, and is buried at Nunhead Cemetery. His age was 84 years.

[1] The *Halsewell* was lost in the early part of the season, which accounts for the two similar dates.

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Walter Allen Meriton, a captain in the Barbadoes trade, married Miss Hannah Crout of Bermondsey (9 Sept. 1787). (*Gent. Magazine.*)

Their daughter, Sarah Meriton, married the Rev. Thomas Henry Walpole, Vicar of Winslow, co. Bucks, and left issue.

The following are from Allen's *Battles of the British Navy.*

On the 4th August, 1800, the 64-gun ship *Belliqueux*, when off the coast of Brazil with a fleet of outward bound East India ships, met the French 40-gun frigate *Concorde*, the 36-gun frigates *Médée* and *Franchise*, and a schooner prize. The French scattered on the warlike appearance of the convoy; the *Belliqueux* chased the *Concorde*; the *Exeter*, Captain Henry Meriton, with the *Bombay Castle*, *Coutts*, and *Neptune*, pursued the *Médée*. The *Concorde* was captured after a short resistance at 5.30 p.m. At 7 p.m. the *Exeter* ranging up alongside the *Médée* with all her ports up, Captain Meriton demanded the surrender of the frigate. To his infinite surprise this was complied with, the French captain thinking that he was under the guns of a line-of-battle ship.

On the 31st January, 1804, an Indian fleet of 16 sail of 1st class ships sailed from China. These ships varied from 1200 to 1500 tons, mounting 30 to 36 guns, with crews averaging 100 men each, exclusive of Indians. These ships were not calculated to contend with a corvette as their ports were small, so that guns could only fire on the beam; and these were only 18-pounders. In fact they were only intended to deter privateers and piratical Malays.

Their appearance was very warlike; for being lofty, well rigged and painted, and with two tiers of ports, might be taken at a distance for line-of-battle ships.

The fleet consisted of

Earl Camden	Nat. Dance	*Abergavenny*	J. Wordsworth
Warley	Hen. Wilson	*Addington*	J. Kirkpatrick
Alfred	Jas. Farquharson	*Bombay Castle*	Arch. Hamilton
Royal George	J. F. Timmins	*Cumberland*	W. W. Farrer
Coutts	R. Tourin	*Hope*	J. Pendergrass
Wexford	W. S. Clarke	*Dorsetshire*	R. H. Brown
Ganges	Wm. Moffatt	*W. Hastings*	Thos. Larkins
Exeter	Hen. Meriton	*Ocean*	J. C. Lockner

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There were also 11 country ships, 2 other merchant ships, and the Company's armed brig *Ganges*.

On the 14th February, at 8 a.m., the fleet, being off Pulo Auro, discovered 4 strange sail to leeward bearing S.W.; Captain Dance directed the *Alfred*, *Royal George*, *Bombay Castle*, and *Hope*, to bear up and reconnoitre the strangers. The *Ganges* also stood towards them. They were made out to be one line-of-battle ship, three frigates and one brig. These composed Rear-Admiral Linois' squadron (74-gun ship *Marengo*, 40-gun frigate *Belle Poule*, 36-gun frigate *Sémillante*, 22-gun corvette *Berceau*, and 16-gun brig *Aventurier*) sent to cut this fleet of merchants off.

Having recalled his ships Commodore Dance disposed his ships in the best possible order for defence, the country ships on the lee bow of the armed ships; he hove to for the night, and hoisting lights awaited the approach of the enemy. The French Admiral appeared little inclined to attack, and at daybreak next morning was lying to about three miles to windward. Commodore Dance filled and made sail at 9 a.m. on the starboard tack and hoisted his colours; upon which the French edged off the wind and stood towards him. At 1 p.m., observing that the French intended to cut off his rear, Commodore Dance signalled to his ships to tack in succession and edge off the wind to windward of the British rear, and engage the enemy on arriving up. This was done with the correctness of a well disciplined fleet; the *Royal George* leading, followed by the *Ganges*, *Earl Camden*, *Warley*, *Alfred*, and others. Thus the British ships with a light wind and top gallant sails set approached the enemy. At 1.15 p.m. the *Marengo* fired on the *Royal George* and *Ganges*, the latter returning it in a very spirited manner. The *Royal George* was engaged nearly 40 minutes. The whole action lasted 43 minutes, and then the *Marengo* and her consorts ceased firing, hauled their wind, and made sail away. The British gave chase for a short time.

Commodore Dance was knighted for the above action, and I read in Orme's list of the H. E. I. C. ships, in the Appendix, that the Company presented him with 2000 guineas and a piece of plate; to Captain Timmins 1000 guineas and a piece of plate; other captains 500 guineas and a piece of plate.

The Patriotic Fund gave swords, value 50 guineas, to all the captains, and to Commodore Dance one, value 100 guineas.

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DR GAITSKELL.

Among the numerous medical practitioners in Rotherhithe was Dr Gaitskell, who lived in a fine house in Paradise Street, not far from the old surgeon of an earlier day, Samuel Gillam.

This house is now the Police Station, and its solid mahogany doors and spacious hall still testify to its original destination for the private residence of a wealthy professional man.

WOODRUFFE, ROBERTS, PEARSON.

Several families of consideration formerly lived in good houses in Rotherhithe Street, a little eastward of the Parish Church. Of these Mr Alexander Roberts and his widow after him had a residence here with a large garden attached to it.

Mr Pearson, and after him his daughter Miss Pearson, lived in this part also; and Miss Pearson was so much attached to her old Rotherhithe home that when she eventually removed out of this Parish she chose a new home in Battersea, overlooking the Thames, that she might still see the sailing barges pass her windows.

Mr Woodruffe was a gentleman of substance who formerly lived in the same part of Rotherhithe Street.

The following inscription is on a tomb in Rotherhithe churchyard:

Mrs Ann Esther Woodruffe
relict of Wm Woodruffe, Surgeon in the Royal Navy
died 18 May 1843 aged 80 years

Richard George Woodruffe
died 7 October 1850

DANIEL MEILAN.

This gentleman, who afterwards became a resident and owner of property in Rotherhithe, was married on June 21, 1783, at the Church of St Andrew Undershaft, in the City of

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London, to Fanny King, of Rotherhithe, by the Reverend Samuel Carr, at that time the rector. The witnesses were Joseph Waring and Edward Coxe.

This information we learn from an extract from the marriage register of St Andrew Undershaft made Jan. 11, 1858, attested by Frederick Charles Dalton, of 1 Fenchurch Buildings, for the Reverend F. G. Blomfield, who was then rector.

This certificate was apparently produced in course of an action at law. It was given to Canon Beck by the late Mr John Talbot, of Rotherhithe, on Sept. 6, 1881.

Amelia Meilan was an owner of houses in Clarence Street, which were purchased for the erection of the Ragged School in the year 1857.

THE TUCKER FAMILY.

This was an old Rotherhithe family of shipwrights connected with Mr Peter Mestaires, the shipbuilder down town, whose name is perpetuated by the narrow crescent or passage which he built—Mestaires' or Mistears' Buildings.

Mr Tucker left two sons, James and Thomas. The elder was originally apprenticed as a shipwright, but gave up that business and lived without any definite occupation. At his death he left a small legacy to the Amicable Society's School.

The younger, Thomas, was in a city office, and died recently, leaving a family who are still in South London.

THE GRICE FAMILY.

Grice's granaries, near the Church, still perpetuate the name of this wealthy family. A Mr Grice was captain of the Loyal Rotherhithe Volunteers during the great war, and presented colours to the Corps. They formerly hung in the Vestry of the Parish Church, and were duly brought out when the Rotherhithe Volunteers of a later date came here for church parade. On the amalgamation of the Bermondsey

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and the Rotherhithe Volunteer Corps into the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of "the Queen's" Royal West Surrey Regiment these old colours were committed to the care of the Colonel commanding the new battalion, and they are carefully preserved in the drill hall in Jamaica Road.

The burying-place of the Grice family is on the north side of the churchyard, but has no monumental inscription.

HOSEASON—BERREY.

Among the numerous enquirers who ask to have the parish registers searched, was recently a lady whose married name is Berrey, but whose maiden name was Anne Smith Hoseason. She was born in March, 1831, in the Surrey canal dock-house, so that her father must have been dock-master here.

WOOSTER.

Mr Thomas Wooster not long since wrote for information about his family from Waipawa, Hawkes' Bay, New Zealand. It was found on searching the registers that Henry Featherstonhaugh Wooster, a shipbroker, was living in Paradise Row (now Union Road) in July, 1839.

MR SAMUEL BROWNFIELD, J.P.

This gentleman was for many years the resident superintendent of the Surrey Commercial Docks, and in that responsible post exercised great influence in the Parish. Mr Brownfield's father was a naval officer. He succeeded the late Mr John Ross as superintendent. His intercourse with the Norwegian shipowners and timber merchants was naturally very intimate, and his character was so highly appreciated in that country that the King of Sweden conferred upon him the Order of Vasa.

Mr Brownfield has been appointed Director of the Dock Company, and has retired to Blackheath.

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Mr Charles Jollands Thompson.

This gentleman, who had held the post of deputy superintendent, has now succeeded Mr Brownfield as superintendent. He is sprung from an old Greenwich family. Mr Thompson married a niece of the Reverend James Wilson, formerly Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish, Rotherhithe. He is one of the foundation managers of St Paul's National Schools, and also of the Amicable Society's School, in both of which he takes great interest.

Mr Francis John Bisley.

Mr Bisley has been long resident in Rotherhithe, and has served all the offices of the parish, being successively sidesman and churchwarden, and long a member of the Vestry. Though no longer living here he still exercises his profession as a valuer and auctioneer, and is greatly respected and trusted. He is a trustee of the various charities of the Parish.

Mr John Bulmer.

This gentleman settled in Rotherhithe in early life, and quickly attained a prominent position in local affairs. He was an influential member of the Vestry of Rotherhithe, and served all the offices, being successively sidesman and churchwarden of the Parish Church. His eldest son, Mr John Henry Bulmer, is a leading member of the Borough Council of Bermondsey, and he has been elected Mayor for the year 1905–6.

The Wilson Family.

Captain Henry Wilson, Commander of the H. E. India Company's ship *Antelope*, was a resident in Paradise Row (now Union Road). His fine portrait is the frontispiece to the narrative of the Pelew Islands, on one of which his ship was wrecked in the year 1783. His features suggest that he was a man of some cultivation, as we know that he was a good seaman.

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He lies in the same grave with the young Prince Lee Boo, on the western side of Rotherhithe churchyard, and near the passage between St Marychurch Street and Rotherhithe Street. The inscription is much obliterated, but it records his preservation and that of the ship's crew under circumstances of great peril.

The Walker Family.

This family has been long resident in Rotherhithe; several members of it lie buried in the old burial-ground and in the churchyard.

Mr Ralph Walker, of Berkeley Street, was for many years an anchor and ship-smith on the north side of the church. He was a Wesleyan Methodist of great piety, and he was the last person to be interred[1] in the churchyard by special permission of H.M. Secretary of State on May 25, 1878, aged 84 years.

Mr Walker's two sons, Ralph Westall and John Walker, survived him for many years—the elder was, like his father, an anchor and ship-smith. He is now dead, but his brother still lives in Culling Road. Both brothers were vestrymen of Rotherhithe.

The Talbot Family.

This family, originally resident in Lambeth, settled here and engaged in the barge-building business some 60 years since. The head of the family, Mr Edward Talbot, was long connected with parochial affairs: he was a respected member of the Rotherhithe Vestry, and served all the offices, being sidesman and afterwards churchwarden of the Parish Church. He was long a member of the Shipwrights Company, of which he was a past-master and treasurer. He died in 1905.

His nephews were Mr Edward James Talbot and Mr Francis Thomas Talbot, who were partners in a large busi-

[1] One other entry occurs in the old burial register—that of Mr John Pearcey, aged 76, of Church Street, on June 24, 1870. He was the owner of the houses facing Princes Street.

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ness, building wooden and iron lighter-barges. Both brothers were members of the Vestry and churchwardens. Mr F. T. Talbot is a member of the Bermondsey Borough Council, of which he is an alderman, and he is a very painstaking trustee of the Parish Charities. There are other members of the family still living in Rotherhithe and the neighbourhood.

Mr E. Rumney Smith.

This gentleman, in partnership with Mr Rose, conducts a large timber business in the Lower Road. He is a very energetic churchman, and, beside serving as churchwarden of the Parish Church, he has done much for the new Church of St Katharine, of which he is the able choir-master, and has trained an excellent choir and orchestra. Though he no longer resides in Rotherhithe, he continues to act as a trustee of the Parochial Charities.

Whatever be our merits in Rotherhithe and our services to the Country as Shipbuilders and Mariners, we have little claim to be distinguished in literature or in art. Yet there are two persons who must not be omitted in our roll of honour.

A minor poet who gave much innocent pleasure to many, especially of the lower middle class, by her poems was Miss Eliza Cook, the author of "The Old Arm Chair" and other verses of a sentimental character. She was a frequent visitor to Rotherhithe and her portrait is still to be met with in some of the older houses, where her well-known features are pourtrayed with the hair parted on one side and her form arrayed in somewhat masculine costume.

The last survivor of the Pre-rafaellite brotherhood, Mr Holman Hunt, whose collected pictures have been exhibited in London in the autumn of the present year, 1906, was the nephew of a most respected parishioner, the late Mr Alfred

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Thomas Hobman, contractor, of Plough Road, and the writer has been told by Mr Hobman that his nephew's Christian name was in fact not Holman but Hobman. Artists have no doubt the privilege of changing their names, but they do not thereby deprive their families of the right to claim kinship with them, and we in Rotherhithe may be proud of our connection, though it may be but a slight one, with the distinguished painter whose beautiful pictures have given so much pleasure and instruction to generations of Englishmen. "The Light of the World" adorns the Chapel of Keble College, Oxford. Many other of his works are in private collections and have been engraved, among the best known being "the Scape Goat," "the finding of our Saviour in the Temple by His Parents" and "the Shadow of the Cross."

Among Missionary Clergy who have gone out from Rotherhithe should be mentioned the Reverend Canon Sutton of Adelaide, South Australia. He was a son of the late Mr Henry Sutton, of Almond Tree House, Lower Road, and a younger brother of Mr John Sutton, till lately resident with his father-in-law, Mr Edward Talbot, in Walker Place. Canon Sutton studied at St Augustine's College, Canterbury; and after his Ordination he devoted himself to work in the Foreign Mission Field.

The Reverend Frank Wells studied for some years for Holy Orders with the Rev. L. H. Blakeston, Vicar of All Saints', Rotherhithe, and subsequently at the Missionary College of St Augustine, Canterbury. He is now a medical student at St Mary's Hospital and was ordained Deacon at Christmas 1905, and Priest Christmas 1906, by the Bishop of London. As soon as he has completed his medical course he will go out as a Medical Missionary to one of the Indian Dioceses.

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CHAPTER XIII.

PHYSICAL ASPECT OF ROTHERHITHE IN 1800

(from notes of an old inhabitant's recollections).

THE appearance and state of Rotherhithe have undergone great changes since the year 1800. There was nothing then to obstruct the view right across the parish, so that from the "Seven Islands" and Blue Anchor Road we could see the hulls of the ships at high water passing some open spaces on the other side of the parish, somewhere about the Pageants and Cuckold's Point; it was then a clear, open country, the boundary of each holder's land being a ditch full of water. That was again divided into fields by ditches. The fields contained from two to ten acres each, according to the dry or swampy nature of the soil. Every road or lane was bounded on each side by ditches. There were no hedges or other kind of fence; nothing but ditches, so that they formed a complete network of water all over the parish, and having communications with each other, and also with the river, they could readily be supplied with water in dry weather, but it could not be so easily drawn off in wet, owing to the level of the land being so much below high water in the river; for the means, either by sluices or sewers, were nothing like so perfect as they are now, and that occasioned extensive patches of boggy ground being under water after much rain. The most part of the parish consisted of grass land, and when a dry summer took place they were sure of a wonderful crop of hay, their means of irrigation being so easily supplied.

And although we had so much more water about, still the neighbourhood was as healthy as any other place, for the

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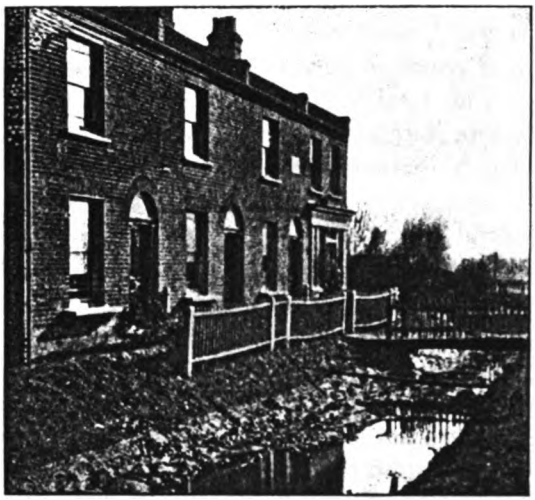

Houses on the Mill-stream.

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ditches of late years must not be taken as a fair sample of the same fifty or sixty years ago. Then, by clauses in the various leases, they were compelled to be kept clean, and the water in most of them was as fit for domestic use as most part of the water that London is supplied with at the present day. Every ditch abounded with eels, and the deepest and widest with carp. There were also other varieties, for in 1802 or 1803, I knew a salmon weighing eight or nine pounds to be caught in that ditch that runs by the side of Harbord's present rope-ground; it must first have come out of the river into the millpond, and from thence through a trunk that supplied that part with water; but as this trunk had not been opened for a month or more, it is clear that it must have lived for that time at least in a hole against a dam, where it was caught by W. Crout, and as it was in full strength and vigour its residence could not have been an unhealthy one.

Besides all the varieties of small singing birds, snipe were so numerous all over the district that sportsmen considered it a first-rate shooting ground. We had also quantities of moorhen, starlings, kingfishers, etc., and in the winter, when the marshy parts were under water, sea-gulls and sometimes wild ducks. I have also known several herons to be taken, and we have occasionally been honoured by short visits from swans, but they came mostly to the Bermondsey part of the marshes known as Roll's Marshes and consisting of that part that the Bricklayers' Arms branch railway runs through. Now Roll's Marshes were always under water in the winter, and sometimes formed one sheet of water consisting of scores of acres, and had the appearance of a large lake; and when frozen over it was changed into a sort of fair, for skaters flocked there from all parts of town. It was a formidable rival to the parks and to all other pieces of ice on account of its security, for if the ice gave way the worst accident that could befall was a cold bath to the legs.

It was not only an attractive place for fishers, fowlers, and skaters, but it formed a rich field for the exploration of the botanist. I have heard an old man (a *simple*, as they were

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then called) declare that they could find in Rotherhithe and its vicinity a greater variety of plants than in any other place he had ever visited, especially aquatic plants.

Also the naturalist must have found it a valuable place to collect his specimens, for I have seen collections of flies, shells, water-beetles, and that sort of things, and could recognize nearly all of them as old acquaintances in the ditches and meadows of Rotherhithe half a century ago.

In 1800 Rotherhithe may be said to be almost destitute of trees, for there was no fruit grown for sale (except elderberries). All that were grown were in private gardens, such as the back gardens of Paradise Row and the Island Gardens, for the market gardeners did not begin to plant fruit trees for ten or twelve years after, and about the same time there sprang up a new and great demand for willow for the manufacture of chip-hats and bonnets, and other fancy articles, and the land being favourable for the growth of the trees they were planted in great numbers by the sides of the ditches in almost every field, and as they grew rapidly in size in a few years the aspect of the neighbourhood was quite altered. And yet the parish was not entirely destitute of trees in former days, for there was a noble row of elms along the eastern side of the Level. The first two stood close to Millpond Bridge (then a narrow wooden bridge), with the sign of "The Two Brewers" hanging between them, and then they continued close to the millpond bank and round the road as far as the parish went. They were all standing when my father first came to the place in 1782. Indeed there were the remains of some of them not forty years ago to be seen where Clare Hall Cottages stand now; they originally grew all round the land side of the parish, at least where the land was dry enough for them to grow. Some of them are standing at the present time close to where the railway crosses the old St Helena Lane now forming part of the New Road. Old people in my time had a habit of saying, instead of "going round the Level" or "the Islands," "going round the Grove," for when the trees were standing it was called "Jamaica Grove."

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In the last century London was girt round with elm, for the constantly increasing demand for water-pipes, that were then made exclusively of the trunks of elm trees merely bored through, caused it to bring a price, that those that held land in the neighbourhood had all the benefit of it, for when conveyed from a distance a great part of the money received was swallowed up by the expenses of the carriage; and although Rotherhithe contributed to the supply, it did not join in the demand, for there was no water laid on in the parish until within the last thirty or forty years, and then iron pipes had entirely superseded elm trunks. The inhabitants before then were supplied by rain water, pumps, and wells, and also a great number of old men and women partly got their living by carrying water to the different houses from the river, the millpond, etc.

At the close of the 18th century, on taking a walk round the land side of the parish from Millpond Bridge to Greenland Dock, you would have to go round the Level or the Islands, and then down the St Helena, or Cobbett's, or Rogue's Lane, for it was then known by all the three names; and then keeping straight along the Plough Road to the Dock. You would have to pass three turnpikes, the Swan, the St Helena, and the Plough. Each of these gates had a public-house close to it, from the sign of which it took its name. There was no Plough Bridge then, as the Surrey Canal was not made until 1803. In going from the Swan gate to the St Helena, you would pass but two houses in the parish, one in the Islands and lately a boundary, but now pulled down; the other was Brandon's at that time, afterwards Broom's, and at present Gale's, the market gardener's. Besides these two houses there was no other building whatever, no rope-grounds or factory of any sort, and the opposite or Bermondsey side of the road had but two houses until you got near the "Blue Anchor," and they are still there: Cork's, the market gardener's, then belonging to Read; and the present "Holly Tree," then the residence of W. and F. Crouts Brothers, also market gardeners. Bermondsey resembled Rotherhithe at that part; the view was unobstructed by trees or anything else.

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Going from the St Helena to the Plough turnpike there was the half-way house, the "Red Lion" of the present day, only it stood with its face to the road that is at the back of the present "Red Lion"; for when the alteration was made in the Deptford Road twenty or thirty years ago, the house was rebuilt with its front turned to the east instead of the west for the purpose of trapping the travellers on the new made road.

The only other place that stood in the parish, from one turnpike to another, was a notable one, not so much for the curious style of the residence as for the eccentric habits of the resident, and the curiosity of his profession and royal appointment. It was upon a narrow strip of ground about ten or twelve feet wide, at the south side of the lane leading from the Deptford Old Road to the St Helena, that an old man named Doyle squatted down about the year 1792. He had been removed from his first station on some waste ground near the workhouse, and his house being on wheels he made a quick and easy move of it. By degrees he added cabin to cabin, wharfing up and building platforms at the back of his little crib over the ditch. He at length enclosed the whole of that side of the lane from the old turnpike at the top to the St Helena. Part of it he made a garden, and some of his tenements he let off. He had a wife much younger than himself, and several children, and so he occupied several of these cabins himself. They were puppetshow-looking places with a show-board along the top, and the royal arms surmounting that, and a flagstaff behind the arms, on which he mostly had the royal standard flying: on the board was inscribed "Michael Doyle, Bug destroyer to His Majesty." But he was a preserver as well as a destroyer, for he professed to cure bad eyes, bad legs, and had a famous remedy for the ague. Somehow or other about 1800 he was either discarded by, or else he discarded, royalty, for he pulled down the royal arms, and no more hoisted the standard, but turned from a firm Royalist to a decided Republican. His life had been an adventurous one, for he was considered to be the last survivor of the crew of the "Centurion," and was along

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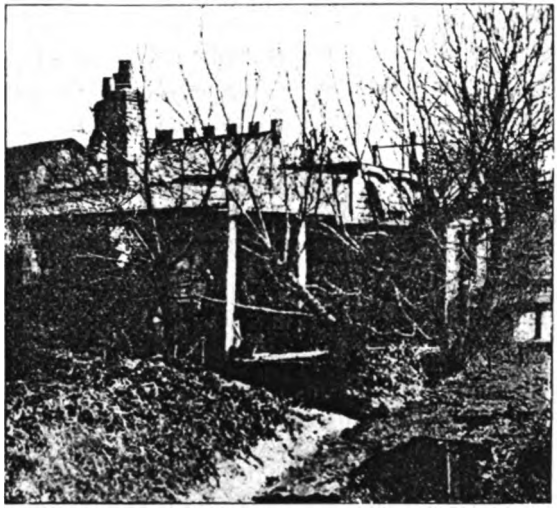

On the Mill-stream, Jamaica Level.

Morton Terrace, Jamaica Level, with Bridge across the Mill-stream.

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with Anson all through that famous voyage round the world. This may account for the patronage he received from St James's, for that he was well known about the palace during the latter end of the 18th century I know to be a fact. He died about 1808, nearly 90 years of age, and had saved £700 or £800.

The Deptford Road from near the top of Paradise Row to the St Helena was then quite a lonely road, unwatched and unlighted, with an unrailed ditch on each side of it. The only building on the west side of it was the workhouse, and a block of old buildings still there, called the Seven Houses. One of them was a public-house—the "Jolly Caulkers." The windmill and cottages about it were not built until after the commencement of the 19th century. On the eastern side the buildings were as few. There was the "China Hall," with a few adjoining cottages, and the "Jolly Sailor," opposite the workhouse.

It will be seen that there was no lack of places of refreshment along the roads of Rotherhithe, but it was the same then on every road within two or three miles of London; full half the houses were public ones. A roadside public-house was sure to have attractions for one class of customers or another—either an adjoining field for trap-bat and ball, or cricket, or a well-kept bowling green; most of them with a tea-garden or some sort of out-door accommodation: but the "St Helena," then in possession of the elder Mr Howard, was equal to any place of the kind in the suburbs of town. Formed in 1720, it partook of the formal style of those days, its straight-sided fish-ponds the shape of the letter T, and well stocked with gold and silver fish, water-lilies and other choice aquatics; the row of alcoves formed of yew and kept so neatly clipped; its long arcades formed of horse-chestnut, holly and hornbeam, and all kept in form by the shears and pruning knife, all with the exception of the weeping willows that hung over two Chinese pavilions, and stood one in each angle formed by the ponds. Its attractions were all natural ones. It required no claptrap to collect customers, no brass bands or Ethiopian serenaders, no six-

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penny masquerades, squibs, crackers or sky-rockets. The music consisted of the lark, blackbird, and thrush (the company never stopped late enough to hear the nightingale). The Rotherhithe Volunteers had their parade ground attached to the gardens and a mound thrown up at the further end of it for ball practice, and so every Thursday in the summer there were the fifes and drums, and on Easter and Whit-Monday evenings the fine long rooms were allowed to be a dancing room. It was then a respectable and well-conducted establishment, and well patronized by families and parties who came from all parts of town for a summer afternoon's recreation and ramble, not so much for visiting the garden as to enjoy the splendid circle of distant scenery that surrounded the pleasant roads, lanes, and fields in the neighbourhood.

It was then really an inviting place, the pure air, the hay fields and the river, bounded only by the beautiful hills that formed a range from east to west, from Shooter's Hill to the westward of Sydenham, and then each so different in their form and colour: some dark with wood, others yellow with corn; then, again, others would be covered with green and speckled over with cattle grazing that would only appear as mere specks. Then there was not a building of any sort to be seen to the southward with the exception of Blackheath and New Cross, the first with its brown perpendicular sides covered with large mansions, whose windows would reflect the setting sun and look like a distant illumination, and the second a compact group of humbler houses rising one above the other, with no outlying stragglers, and seemed as if they were packed against the side of the hill that arose behind them. The telegraph stood on the top of the other hill to the right, and on the left stood two curious-looking pyramids used as tile kilns. These were the only buildings visible to the south, for Peckham and Camberwell were then small detached villages and hidden from view by their surrounding trees (elms, of course), and the Kent Road had but half-a-dozen houses from the "Green Man" to New Cross, and four of them were public-houses, the "Black Jack," the "Kentish Drovers,"

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the "Five Bells," and the "Turk's Head." The road itself was hidden by high hedges that fenced the sides, and the only sign we had of the road being there was the clouds of dust that rose along the line of it on the market-day when drovers of cattle were coming from or going to Smithfield, or a grand review day when large bodies of troops were marching to or from Blackheath.

And turning to the east and north you would have a marine view extending from the cupolas of Greenwich Hospital to above the Tower of London that could not then be equalled by any other port in the world, for the only dock was the Greenland, a small affair and kept entirely for the use of that trade. Consequently all other vessels lay in the stream, and formed a complete semicircular forest of masts, and with their trim white sails and clean rigging, and a clear smokeless sky for a background, formed a scene that could not be seen with so good an effect from any other point as it could from the fields and neighbourhood of Rotherhithe and Bermondsey.

At that time the East India Company had the whole of the trade of India and China secured to them by a charter, and all their ships were obliged to make the Thames their lading and unlading place. Blackwall was the general rendezvous, but after being lightened they would lie about Deptford and Limehouse. They were noble vessels, and in appearance might be taken for men-of-war. The Port of London also monopolized all the fine West Indiamen and traders to all parts of the world. The old navigation laws were then in full force, and besides we were in a state of war with nearly all Europe and a foreign flag was a rarity in the Thames except a French, Spanish, or Dutch ship with the British ensign flying to denote that the vessel was a prize to some Port of London privateer. The American stars and stripes were scarcely known in those days, but yet without any foreigners there was such a grand display of shipping as the merchants of London might well be proud of. On a grand gala or rejoicing day the river would be one mass of flags, but especially, above all, on Trinity Monday, when the Trinity masters in their State barges, accompanied by the Admiralty

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barges containing the great officers of State, the Lord Mayor's and other corporation barges, made their grand annual visit to Deptford to inspect their almshouses, hear a bishop preach a sermon at the old Church of St Nicholas, and then return to a grand banquet on Tower Hill. Trinity Monday was the fête-day of the Thames, and every ship was dressed up in its gayest colours to welcome their directors, protectors, and friends, and most of them being armed in some way or other, they (joined with the guns at the wharves) kept up one continual cannonade as the procession passed, so that anyone inland could see the whereabouts of the procession by the clouds of white smoke that followed it, then the only sort of smoke that ever curled over the face of the river.

Now the finest of these ships are shut up among high warehouses in the docks, and when inward and outward bound, if not steamers themselves, they are dragged up or down the river by ugly steam-tugs. A ship under canvas is never seen now, and almost the only indication of the proximity of the once noble Thames to be seen is a canopy of pitchy black smoke that hangs over it in all its windings like a funeral pall.

And then a third distinct scene opened where the shipping ceased, and formed a most interesting contrast to the other two, the view of London itself: a view that could not be got with such advantage from any other side of the town as it could from St Helena Lane and Galley Wall, for you were at sufficient distance to take all in, and not so far off for the objects to lose their distinctness, for every steeple, tower, or dome that arose above the ordinary height of the houses from the Tower to Westminster Abbey could be seen and named by anyone conversant with town. There were no tall chimneys at that time, indeed they were utterly unknown, and so there was no fear of mistaking a steam shaft for the spire of a church, or the Monument for a tall chimney.

There was then little smoke generated in London except what arose from domestic operations. Brewers and bakers were wanted then as much as they are now, but the first never brewed in summer and the second never heated their

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ovens with coal, and so on a summer's evening after the City dames had taken tea, the town was nearly as free from mist or haziness as any other part of the surrounding scene, for when the setting sun threw its light on the Highgate and Hampstead Hills they could be seen as plainly as Shooter's Hill could on our side of it. The remaining portion of the circle of the horizon from the Abbey to where the Surrey Hills again arose in the south-west, and containing about 30 or 40 degrees, was a blank, looking over Kennington and Newington, and there was nothing to be seen but the roofs of the houses about Surrey Square and the Paragon, and the tops of trees. Still it added to the effect of the other scenery, for it had the appearance of the outlet from the platform from which you viewed the vast and varied panorama around you, and formed another contrast in the scene.

At the close of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century the millpond was one of the curiosities of Rotherhithe. It was a well-contrived, artificial collection of water used for the purpose of working the flour-mill, and formed what was called "The Seven Islands." Some traces of the water-course are still left, but they are but faint traces, for then the water covered full two-thirds of the area of the whole, as the main stream that still runs under Millpond Bridge was there not only twice the breadth but the depth was nine feet, and after dividing at the back of the Turnpike, as at present, into two streams, the two went all round the old and original part, and again met at the upper end.

The intervening space between these two outside streams was formed into islands by transverse cuts. Those at the upper end ran straight from one main stream to the other, but at the lower end the cuttings took a more complicated, irregular form. Still, whatever direction they took, they were so provided with floodgates, penstocks, or sluices that after being emptied in rotation to work the mill on the ebb of the tide in the river, they in turn had the reserved water at the head turned down whichever one it pleased the manager to open the floodgate of, the others being kept shut.

The head of water consisted of all that space now occupied

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by Mr Cork as a market-garden, and was formed in several divisions. The part next the road in my memory was one large basin of water and consisted of some acres. It was flanked towards the workhouse and Brandon's Ground by the long reservoir. This had a sluice on the back stream, and also others at the upper end of the large reservoir, the main sluice of which opened on the main stream near the road, and they were admirably adapted to flush each other and altogether to send down a stream to the mill that kept it at work until the tide rose again in the river. The depth of water in the reservoir was 7 feet, giving a fall of 2 feet between that and the mill.

The old parts of the ponds, according to the traditions of old people, were first formed in the reign of Elizabeth. The place was said to be a shelf or deposit of gravel, some indications of which exist at the present day. This gravel was excavated for ballast at the time of the Armada, and used for that purpose in those ships which the merchants of London fitted out for the defence of the Thames.

The hollow or excavated part was then embanked and connected with the Thames by the present main stream, and then had the first water-mill erected on it. This first reservoir, by the same authority of old people born on the spot and whose ancestors had lived there for many generations before them, did not extend further inland than where Franklin's osier ground was afterwards.

After a lapse of time this first head of water became choked by the sediment of the river water. To wash that away another pond was embanked still further inland, and the mud in the first thrown up into islands (all except Franklin's osier grounds). This second pond extended to the further end of what was called the Old Pond, but like the first in time became choked and was formed into those islands that run straight across the upper end. All these changes described above must have taken place between the year 1588, the date of the Armada, and the beginning of the 18th century.

In 1770 it became necessary to extend the work still

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further inland, and a large reservoir was formed in part of a swampy field called the Windmill Field, because it had an old windmill in it that stood in the north-west corner, close to where the end of Harbord's rope-ground is now; but still the mud kept on accumulating, and so in 1785 the Long Pond was made. The land previously was a small field or paddock attached to Mr Brandon's ground. These last two works seemed to complete the plan that had been 200 years in hand before it was brought to perfection, for after that each part reached in such a manner upon the other that there was no more accumulation of mud. The ownership of the land was as complicated as the water-courses, for while the miller claimed the water and some sort of a right over the islands, the islands themselves were divided alternately between the glebe and the manor in this way: the furthest island belonged to Col. Goldsworthy, the next to the Rector, and so on until you come to the osier ground, the largest of all, for it nearly surrounded the Island House and its islands; that was all glebe, as that within the Island House was all manor; so also was an island between the osier ground and the road, manor (the "Crown" stands on part of it). This island was formed by a half-circle or cut, both ends of which ran into the front stream where, near the centre of the island, stood a pair of floodgates. There were also floodgates at each end of the cut and an underground culvert that connected it with the south-western corner of the Island House ponds, and enabled them to send a flush of water through these whenever they required it.

The miller not only claimed the right of casting the mud from the ponds upon the island gardens any time (without notice) between the 25th October and the 25th March, but he also possessed a right to be provided with a key to every gate, so that his men might have access to the floodgates at any time, night and day, for there were two men constantly kept for the purpose of working them.

The whole of the millponds were of course embanked on the outside boundary. This embankment from nearly north of the Island House ran by the side of Brandon's ground and

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the back of the workhouse, and so on to the south side by the meadow, and still continuing between the west side of the reservoir and the road, went up to the reservoir gate, from this gate to Millpond Bridge. The bank was used as a public footpath. At the side of the road, the enclosed part of the embankment was about two rods wide, and standing outwards to a ditch that ran round the entire length of the whole. The bank was planted with osiers; so also were the inside banks of the reservoirs, the mill garden, etc., for they produced most abundant crops and of first-rate quality.

The islands, although called seven, consisted of more, if the inside islands were reckoned; and yet, properly speaking, there were but seven abutting on the road with eleven bridges, for that large one in the centre came twice up to the road, having the half-circular one cut out of it, and then throwing as it were two arms across, round the inside islands. These islands came to a point each side of the Island House bridge where the inlet to the inside ponds was. This bridge had rather a pretty effect, being nearly 40 yards in length and running from the back of the toll-house across the main stream and between the two points, and through the centre of the stream that supplied the inside ponds formed the only entrance to the island tea-gardens and the surrounding island gardens. The islands themselves were all rented as private gardens by tradesmen and people of property in the neighbourhood, and were well, indeed some of them were expensively, kept up with their fanciful summer-houses and natty little boats in which they could row about the back streams and ponds at high water, for it would be as smooth as glass for several hours each tide, and then all at once begin to move rapidly towards the mill, and when you thought it had nearly run out, rush would come another stream: some sluice had been opened, and then another down a different cut, perhaps down the one at the side of the island you were standing on, and carry everything moveable along with it; and so they would go on in rotation, until the tide in the river again rose and the fall was no longer available. The island gardens altogether formed a very desirable spot for anyone who wished

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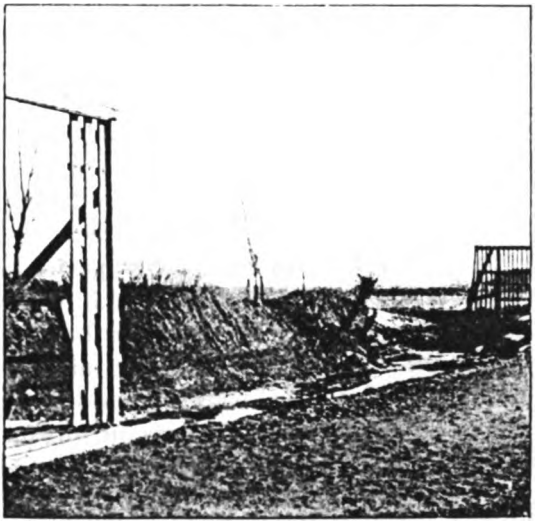
The Mill-stream, Jamaica Level, now Southwark Park Road.



"The Rector's Islands," Jamaica Level, Rotherhithe.

N.B. The Mill-stream is now culverted over.

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to enjoy quiet recreation. The rent varied from £2 to £3 a year, and they were not only very productive in fruit and vegetables, but were so pleasantly situated; for all the surroundings being open there was a most extensive view in almost every direction, and as every garden had a summer-house, so most of them had conveniences to boil the social tea-kettle, and to spend many a summer's afternoon holiday in such a convenient, inexpensive manner, that is now unattainable.

The islands were frequented by nearly every description of singing birds, besides waterfowl, of which snipe and moorhens were to be seen. The latter would have their nests among the osier banks, and breed in great numbers; and in summer and autumn partridges would make it their home; so often would kingfishers; and when Messrs Back had the mill they introduced several swans that bred and thrived capitally. They also converted that island among the reservoirs, and known as the mill garden, into a rabbit warren, and had several thousand in it; but during the severe winter of 1814, when the Thames was frozen over and all the water barriers filled up with ice and snow, a great part of them escaped, and then the remainder were killed and the warren broken up.

The water had fish of many varieties that came out of the Thames, for in those days the river had fish in it. I have myself seen two salmon caught in the millpond; they had stopped in too long. The first was in 1804. Some boys went in and captured it, but as soon as they got it on shore a press-gang took it away from them. The other was ten or twelve years after that; it was a most exciting chase by three men and in three feet of water. One of the men if unassisted would have been drowned, for he had got it by the side of the stream in shallow water, and stooping over it and grasping its head with both his hands, he was trying to throw it out on shore, when it made a sudden spring out of the water and gave him a tremendous blow on the side of the head with its tail part that sent him a yard or two off on his face, completely stunned, in the mud and water. He

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fished no more that day. The fish was ultimately secured by passing a line through its gills and dragging it on shore; it was a monster, and weighed 24 lbs.

The dwellings on the island were few. There was a lath and plaster cottage with a large mulberry-tree before it; afterwards the front was rebuilt with brick, and for many years used as a laundry. Then to the north of that were the Island House tea-gardens, rather a pretty place with its snug boxes and arbours all round, a fish-pond in the middle, its long serpentine bridge, and pleasant situation giving it a fair share of patronage among the many tea-gardens of that time. It was burnt down about the year 1799, and being a wooden house there was scarcely a vestige of it left. The present "Swan" was built on its site. On the adjoining island, to the north of the Island House, stood the residence of a sheriff's officer named Cross. It was a most fanciful-looking wooden building, in style something between a fortress and a church, flanked by square bastions, a castellated roof with a tower in the centre, and a church spire, with a weathercock on the top of it, rising out of that; ten or twelve feet in advance of the front, was a dwarf fence or curtain that also was full of portholes. The whole was painted red to imitate masonry, and armed with a hundred wooden cannon about the size of rolling-pins and painted black with a red-hot ball half-way out of the muzzle of each of them. At any rate, the balls were painted red and looked as if they were hot. In the front court or yard, or esplanade, I suppose it would be called, stood four grim-looking Grenadiers, made out of flat deal boards gorgeously painted, and shouldering arms, the tops of their bayonets being as high as the bastions behind them, and they looked like so many descendants of the renowned Captain Gulliver mounting guard to protect the palace of the Queen of Lilliput. And yet, notwithstanding all that sham and burlesque, this front only acted as a sort of screen to a really formidable place, at the back strongly built, with iron-barred windows, and used as a lock-up or sponging house for the unfortunate wight who could afford to pay for the luxury of living in it. The opposite side of the stream to

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THE·OLD·MILL·POND··PARADISE·STREET·ROTHERHITHE : FILLED-IN·1902.

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the north of Cross's, and extending to the millpond bridge, being bounded on the east by "Rose and Rummer" Lane and on the west by the main mill-stream, was all glebe; and although, properly speaking, not forming part of the islands, it was similar in other respects, being all private gardens like the other with only one house on it (with the exception of two or three small old houses and sheds facing Paradise Street). This house was a high, square wooden one of two storeys with a bleak uncomfortable-looking aspect, and built within six or seven feet of the stream in the front. It had a flat roof covered with lead, and a parapet all round with portholes in it, and wooden cannon of larger calibre than Cross's pointing out of each of them, and well carved wooden representations of the theological virtues ranged along the centre. They were all there within my memory, but from some cause or other Faith and Charity fled, and Hope alone remained perched on her pedestal in the middle of the roof; and painted at first in the gayest colours, as she always is, she remained there for many years alone until destroyed by old Time.

This house was called "Hill's Folly." It was built by a waterman who unexpectedly came into the possession of several thousands of pounds, and it was only the centre part of the place he intended to complete, for there were to be wings and stables, and a superb drawbridge over the pond. The bridge was made and partly erected when the owner of the mill (it must have been in Mr Hosier's time) prevented the completion of it, for no one had a right to erect a bridge across the stream who could gain access to their premises from any other quarter, and there was access from Rose and Rummer Lane. The miller also had control over the bridges that had a right to be over the pond, for no one was allowed to put piles into the stream for support because they obstructed the navigating a barge that was kept for carrying mud to repair the banks. The width of the bridges was also restricted to three feet. The waterman went to law with the miller, and the miller gained the cause. Then other things went wrong. The money was frittered away, and the house left in the

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ruinous state it remained in for a great many years afterwards; and the builder of it fell into a worse state of poverty than that from which he arose. Part of the house still remains, the back part entirely removed and the top storey of the front taken off. It is reduced into a four-roomed cottage, and forms the end house of George's Place.

In 1800, and for some years afterwards, these islands remained a truly romantic place, but like more mighty things than millponds, although it took centuries to bring them to perfection, a score or two of years completed their fall. The continual flushing and scouring of the ponds had formed a bank in the river opposite the mill that at low water was dangerous to navigation; and so about 1809 or 1810, the City authorities prohibiting flushing except on certain regulations, this in a short time made it necessary to revert to the old system of casting the mud upon the islands. This was destructive to the beauty of the gardens; most of them were deserted by the class of people who formerly held them. They were succeeded by the humbler lot, who one after another took up their residence in the gardens by adding by degrees to the summer-houses, until there was not an island without a family living on it. And as they went on casting every two or three years, a great part of the mud found its way back down the banks so that the water was greatly diminished, and was considered of more expense than profit; and steam, that had been for many years used as an auxiliary to the water-power about twenty years ago, entirely superseded it.

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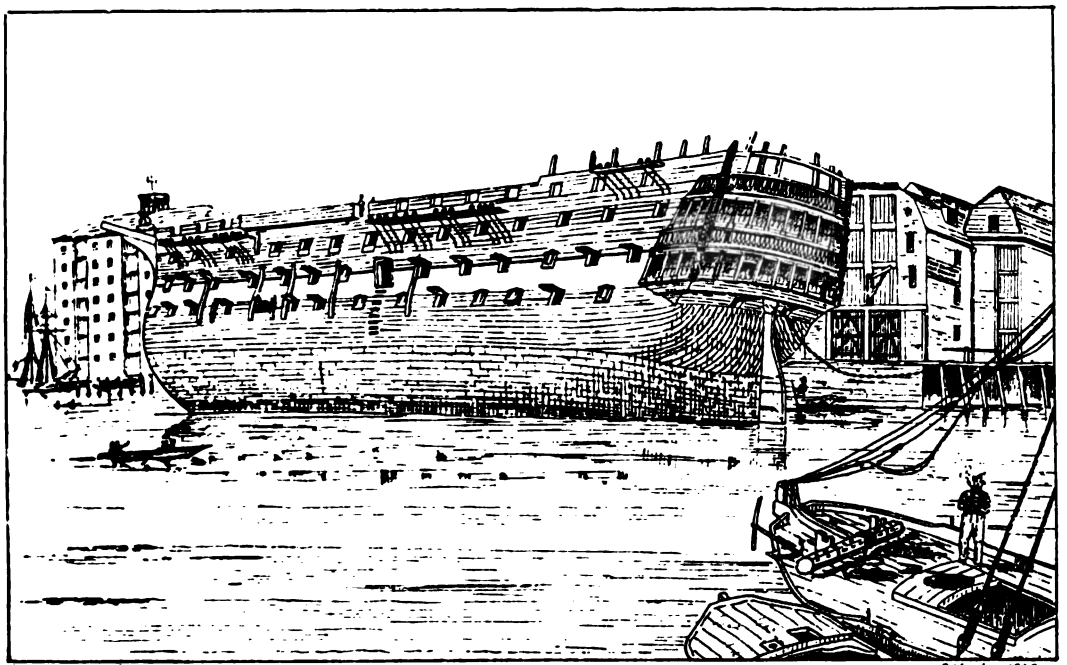

Drawn by Mr Boulton THE TEMÉRAIRE 101 guns September 1836

This vessel, now lying at the wharf of Mr John Beaston of Rotherhithe, who has purchased her of H. M. Commissioners for the purpose of breaking up, is the largest ship ever constructed to ride up the River Thames, being in fact the largest ever sold by government. The name of the Temeraire is immortalized by the distinguished part she bore in the memorable Battle of Trafalgar when she was commanded by Captain Eliab Harvey

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CHAPTER XIV.

THE SHIPBREAKERS.

The Fighting Téméraire. The Queen.

IN this year of grace, 1905, all Englishmen have been fighting over again the great sea-fight of Trafalgar, Oct. 21, 1805.

Next to Lord Nelson's flag-ship the *Victory* none of the battle-ships then engaged did more gallant service than the *Téméraire*, a "ninety-eight gun" three-decker, commanded by Captain Eliab Harvey.

> She came to Nelson's aid,
> The battle's brunt to bear,
> And nobly sought to lead the van,
> The brave old *Téméraire*.

And she made her name that day as we all know her—the "fighting" *Téméraire*.

> In England's song for ever
> She's the *Fighting Téméraire*.

The story of Trafalgar needs not to be retold here; but in Rotherhithe her name can never be forgotten, for here she was broken up, and here some of her timbers still remain.

One autumn evening of the year 1838[1], J. W. M. Turner, with Clarkson Stanfield and some other friends, was boating off Greenwich Marshes in Blackwall Reach, when the old ship passed them tugged by a steamboat to her last berth at the shipbreaker's yard.

[1] See *Famous Fighters of the Fleet*, by Edward Fraser, 1904.

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"There's a fine picture, Turner," said Stanfield, pointing to the old man-of-war, now 40 years afloat. And Turner went home and painted the picture ("the most pathetic of subjects not involving human pain that ever was painted," says Ruskin), while the shipbreaker's men of John Beatson's yard in Rotherhithe Street were completing the work of destruction which the shot of French and Spanish war-ships had failed to effect.

In a church which was built in 1850 within a stone's throw of the scene, St Paul's Chapel of Ease, Rotherhithe, those who make a pilgrimage to this quaint old-world district may see if they will some relics of the *Téméraire* consecrated to the most sacred of uses; for the Holy Table, the altar-rails and the Sanctuary-chairs are all made of heart-of-oak carved from the timbers of this famous ship[1].

The Queen.

Thirty years since as one walked down Rotherhithe Street, after crossing the Surrey Canal Bridge the first sight which met the eye was one or more large figure-heads, trophies of ancient war-ships which had been broken up when their sea-life was ended. Still lower down the street the successive dry-docks each in turn displayed the bows and figure-heads of wooden vessels under repair projecting overhead across the street, and almost touching the houses on the south side of the street.

This is now a thing of the past: the old figure-heads are gone elsewhere. No shipbreaker's yard remains; the business has been long extinct, and Messrs Castle of Millwall and Westminster have inherited the carved figures which once adorned the bows and galleries of the ships.

[1] Some years since the Vestry of Rotherhithe had the opportunity of re-naming one of the streets in the parish which had borne the name of Nelson Street, but which from postal reasons had to be changed. In place of some unmeaning names submitted to them for choice, they suggested that Nelson Street should be re-named Téméraire Street and it has borne this name ever since.

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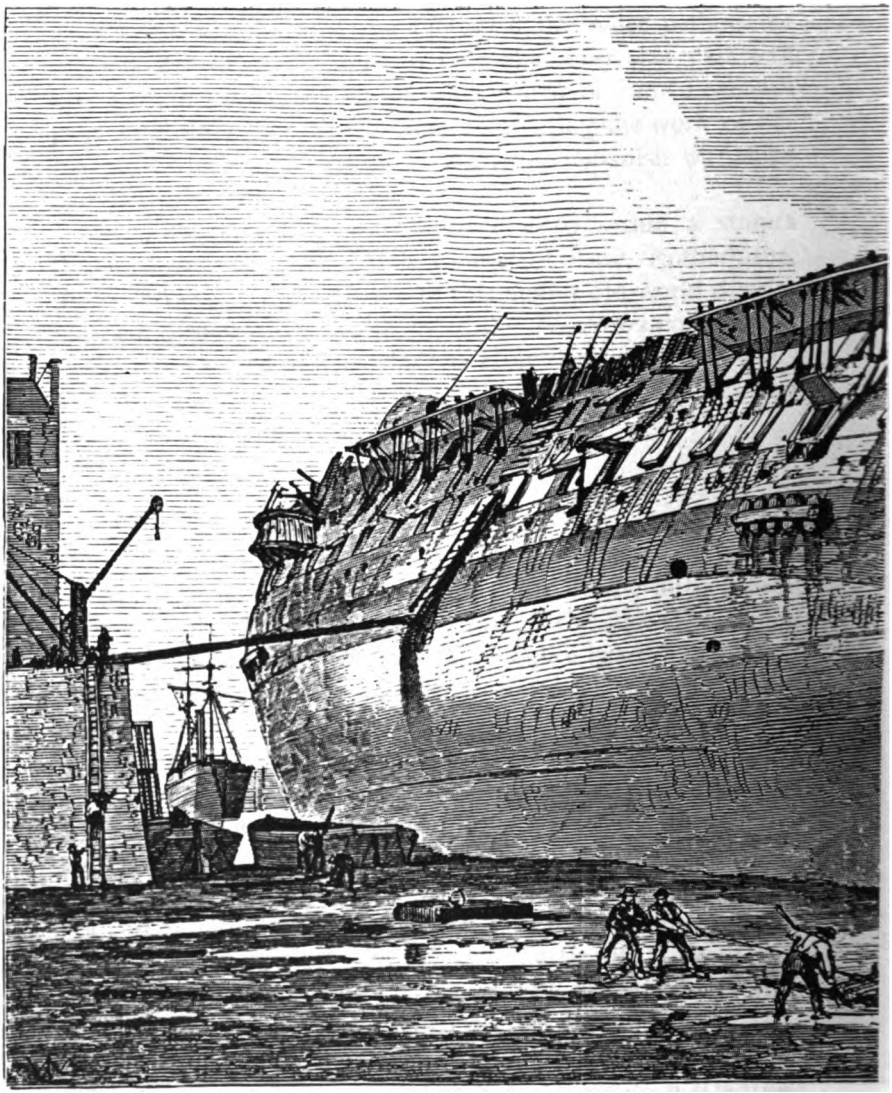

The "Queen" heeled over on the shore off

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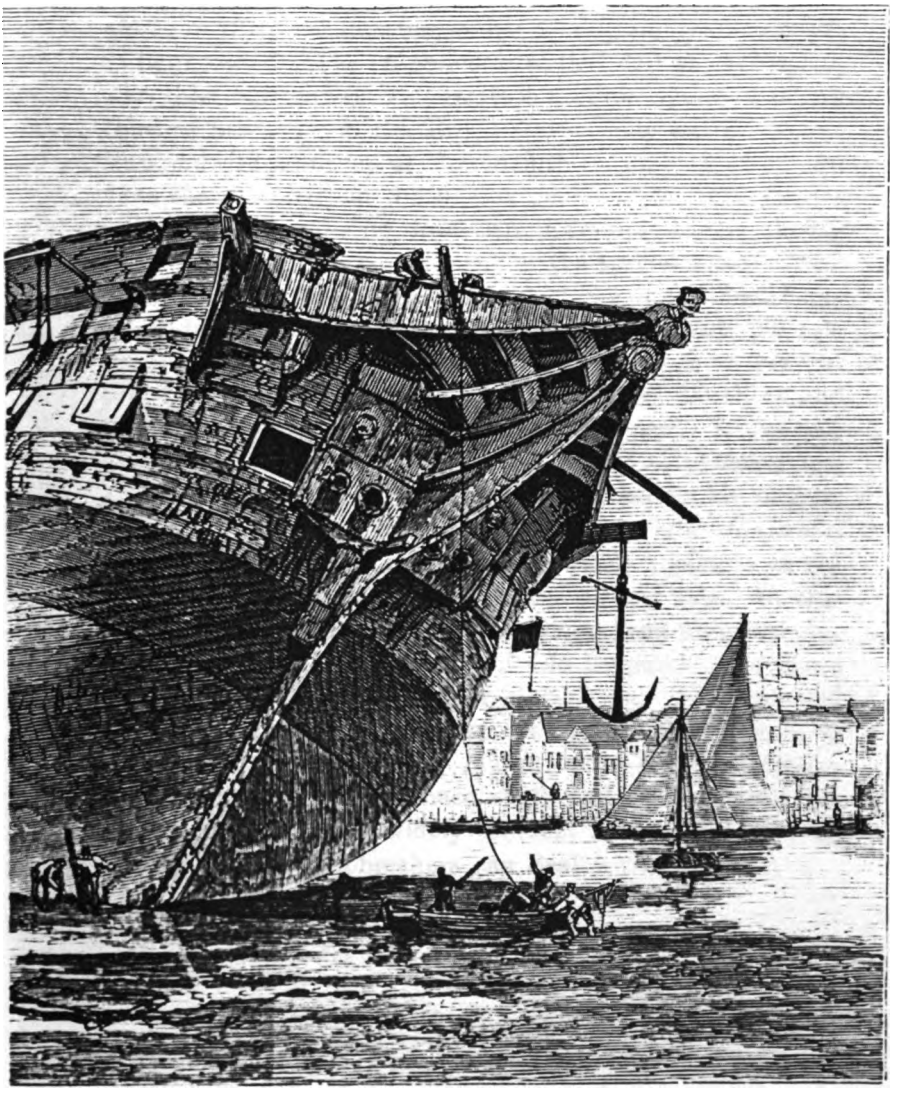

: ship-breaker's yard, Rotherhithe Street.

From the "Illustrated London News.

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The last of the old men-of-war which was berthed off Beatson's yard for the purpose of being broken up was the *Queen* in 1870, and the story of her coming alongside deserves to be recorded. The shipbreaker of that day was Mr Beach, who had succeeded Mr Beatson. This *Queen* was the third of her name in the Royal Navy. She was a 110-gun ship and was launched at Portsmouth on May 15, 1839. In 1854 she took part in the bombardment of the sea-batteries of Sevastopol, winning from Sir Edmund Lyons during the engagement the compliment of the special signal "Well done, *Queen*." The incident to which we have alluded was this: as she was brought alongside Beach's yard the tide dropped too quickly for the shipbreaker's men to get her properly in position and so she stranded on the shore and broke her back, wrenching all her timbers apart. It was said at the time that by this misadventure the shipbreaker lost £1000 of the profit he had expected to realize on his bargain.

By the kindness of the proprietors of the *Illustrated London News* we are enabled to reproduce a picture of the date showing the *Queen* heeled over on her side. In that untoward position she had to be broken up, and from that day no more of "the wooden walls of Old England" have found their way up the Thames for demolition. The iron-clad *Queen*, the fourth of her name, was launched on March 8, 1902, at Devonport by their Majesties the King and Queen, and when her day of service shall have been closed her breaking up will be a widely different affair from anything the Rotherhithe shipbreakers can deal with.

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CHAPTER XV.

THE MANOR OF ROTHERHITHE FROM 1740 TO THE PRESENT DAY[1].

THE last Lord of the Manor mentioned in Chapter IV was Sir Charles Wager, Knight, 1740–43.

He was Admiral of the White and Treasurer of the Navy, and died May 8, 1743, leaving all his estate to his wife, Martha Wager, whom he appointed sole executrix of his will, desiring his "very good friend Francis Gashry to assist her in the management of her affairs."

Dame Martha Wager, who was Lady of the Manor 1743 to 1748, by her will dated 20th Feb. 1747, after bequests to her nephew Burrington Goldsworthy and her niece Phillippia Goldsworthy, appointed her niece Martha Gashry residuary legatee of all her real and personal estate, and her nephew Francis Gashry sole executor.

On April 16, 1748, Francis Gashry proved Lady Wager's will, stating that he was the lawful husband of the said Martha, the residuary legatee.

Francis Gashry, Lord of the Manor of Rotherhithe from 1748 to 1762, was the Treasurer and Paymaster of His Majesty's Office of Ordnance; and died in 1762.

Martha Gashry, his widow, was Lady of the Manor from 1762 to 1777.

By her will dated March 20, 1777, Mrs Martha Gashry gave all her manors in the County of Surrey to trustees, the

[1] Continued from Chap. IV

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Reverend William Butler and Edward Vanburgh, for the use and on behalf of her nephew Philip Goldsworthy.

General Philip Goldsworthy[1], Lord of the Manor from 1777 to 1801, was the son of Burrington Goldsworthy who died in 1774 and his wife Philippia (*née* Vanburgh), sister of Mrs Martha Gashry.

Lieut.-General Philip Goldsworthy was Colonel of the 1st Regt. of Dragoons and in 1788 was appointed Equerry and Clerk Marshal of the Mews to His Majesty King George III. He was M.P. for Wilton and died Jan. 8, 1801, leaving his manor to his sister, Miss Martha Caroline Goldsworthy, who was Lady of the Manor from 1801 to 1816.

This lady and Miss Jane Gomm were for many years governesses to their Royal Highnesses the Princesses, daughters of King George the Third and Queen Charlotte. Miss Goldsworthy was appointed in 1774 governess to the Princess Royal.

By her will dated 24 Feb. 1816 she bequeathed the manor to her "good and worthy friend and companion Jane Gomm" for life, and from and after her decease to Sophia Louisa Gomm, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel William Gomm.

She died March, 1816, in the 76th year of her age, and was buried in the Abbey Church, Bath.

Miss Jane Gomm, who was Lady of the Manor from 1816 to 1822, was the eldest child of William Gomm, Esq. (b. 1753), Secretary to the Embassy of St Petersburg and the Hague.

She was sub-governess to the Princesses with her friend Miss Goldsworthy, and the care and education of the three younger ones, viz. the Princesses Mary, Sophia and Amelia, fell almost entirely to her charge.

So great was the affection and esteem of the Royal Family for these two good ladies that they were retained about the Court in waiting upon the Princesses till nearly the end of the King's reign. They then retired and lived together for some years in Hill Street, Berkeley Square.

Miss Gomm was a most remarkable woman of great piety,

[1] Goldsworthy Terrace, in the Lower Road, still preserves the name of this gentleman.

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with a mind richly stored with sound learning. After the death of her sister-in-law the widow of Lieut.-Col. Wm. Gomm, 55th Regt., she took charge of the three orphan children and fulfilled for them a mother's part.

It was doubtless to her training that the late Field-Marshal, Sir Wm. Gomm, owed his good education and the genuine piety which was so conspicuous in his character from his youth up.

The kindly feeling exhibited by the Royal Family to Miss Gomm and her nephews is shown by the fact that Sir William received his first sword from the hands of the Princess Mary; while many pieces of plate, still retained in the family, were gifts to Miss Goldsworthy and Miss Gomm from different members of the Royal Family.

Miss Sophia Gomm, her niece, who was also named in Miss Goldsworthy's will, died unmarried in 1817, aged 29, during the lifetime of her aunt.

This gifted young lady was the warm friend of the Princess Amelia, and she was the only sister of Sir William M. Gomm, and it was to her that nearly all his letters during the Peninsula and Waterloo campaigns were addressed.

By her will dated May 8, 1816, she left her estate between her two brothers equally. The younger of these, Lt.-Col. Henry Gomm, of the 6th Regt., died in 1816 (i.e. in her lifetime) of wounds received in the battle of the Pyrenees. Consequently the whole of her interest devolved upon her only surviving brother, Sir William Maynard Gomm.

Miss Jane Gomm died in 1822 and she, as well as her niece, was buried in the Abbey Church, Bath.

The Manor of Rotherhithe thus devolved upon Sir Wm. M. Gomm; and he held the estate from 1822 to 1875. He was born in Barbadoes in 1784: and received his first commission in 1795, being then only ten years old, and was actually in action at the battle of Bergen in 1799 before he was fifteen years of age.

Indeed he once told the writer that he "had fought two pitched battles when he was of the ripe fighting age of fourteen years." These battles were in Holland, and during

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The late Field-Marshal Sir Wm. Maynard Gomm, G.C.B., Constable of the Tower. Lord of the Manor of Rotherhithe.

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one of them he was in danger of being drowned in one of the dykes; for being heavily weighted with his knapsack he was sinking in the mud and water. Happily a grenadier found him in this perilous plight and "pulled him out by the scruff of his neck."

His military career thus narrowly escaped a disastrous termination, but he lived to be the hero of many a fight.

He served in the Peninsular campaign, and was present at the battles of Roliça and Vimiera, and took part in the retreat of Sir John Moore, and the battle of Corunna. He was in the unfortunate expedition to Walcheren, and afterwards returning to Spain was at the battles of Busaco, Torres Vedras, at the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Madrid, Burgos and San Sebastian, and at the battle of Vittoria, and in the frontier battles up to Bayonne. He was Quartermaster-General of Picton's division at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, and was in the Army of Occupation of Paris. On the walls of his house in Spring Gardens hung the picture of his grey charger, "Waterloo George," and on his writing table stood an inkstand formed of one of the noble animal's hoofs.

After the Peace he returned home; but in 1839 he became Commander-in-Chief in Jamaica, where he found the troops decimated with fever in Kingston, and with great difficulty induced the home authorities to allow him to build the sanatorium at Newcastle in the hills; and he looked upon this achievement with greater pride and satisfaction than upon his battles on the Continent of Europe. From 1842 to 1849 he was Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Mauritius. From 1850 to 1855 he was Commander-in-Chief in India, returning home before the mutiny. In 1863 he became Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, the regiment to which he had been transferred half a century before for distinguished service during the Peninsular War. In 1868 he received the Field-Marshal's *bâton*, and in 1871 he was appointed Constable of the Tower. His first wife, who died in 1827, was the daughter of Granville Penn, of Stoke Park, Bucks, the great-grandson of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania.

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He subsequently married Elizabeth Ann, eldest daughter of Lord Robert Kerr and his wife Mary, daughter of the Reverend Edward Gilbert, the lineal descendant of Sir Humphry Gilbert, the famous navigator of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

During the peaceful years of Sir Wm. Gomm's life after his return to England he became the staunch friend of the Reverend Edward Blick and of his successor the present Rector of Rotherhithe, upholding every scheme of Church Extension and School-building in the parish. The new church of Christ Church was built on land given by him; the site for St Mary's National Schools in the Lower Road was his gift. He laid the first stone of new schools for Christ Church parish which were erected in Paradise Street. Every Christmas till his death he sent to the Rector £100 for the poor, which augmented by one-half the January pension to the widows of Mrs Bayly's Charity. All the Rotherhithe schools were generously aided by his yearly subscriptions. Later on he gave largely towards the erection of St Barnabas Church in Plough Road, and to the Gomm Schools in the same district which bear his honoured name.

During his time a considerable portion of the Manor was sold for the purposes of the Surrey Commercial Docks, and sixty acres of market-garden ground were sold to the Metropolitan Board of Works to form the Southwark Park, one of the lungs of South London.

On March 15, 1875, this truly noble-hearted gentleman "having served his generation by the will of God fell on sleep" in the ninety-first year of his age, after eighty years in the British army, the longest service on record. He was buried in his vault at Christ Church, Rotherhithe, after service held in the church of St Barnabas, which he had three years before helped so generously to build. Her Majesty the Queen and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales sent representatives to follow the coffin. Lady Gomm herself had the courage to be present in the church.

Sir Wm. M. Gomm by his will bequeathed his estates to his widow, who thus became Lady of the Manor of Rotherhithe.

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The late Lady Gomm, Lady of the Manor of Rotherhithe.

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Mrs Carr-Gomm, Lady of the Manor of Rotherhithe.

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Hubert Wm. Carr-Gomm, M.P. for Rotherhithe.

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Lady Gomm only survived her husband for two years[1]; she died Nov. 30, 1877, and was buried beside him at Christ Church, Rotherhithe. By her will she bequeathed the Manor in tail to her niece, Emily Blanche Carr. She likewise founded by her will a valuable charity for pensioners residing in the ecclesiastical districts of St Mary, St Barnabas, and Christ Church, Rotherhithe, which is called "The Sir William and Lady Gomm's Charity." She further bequeathed a sum of money for the benefit of the parish, with which her trustees have erected "The Lady Gomm Memorial Hospital" in Hawkstone Road, adjoining Southwark Park. This institution is managed by the "Sisters of the Church," who confer great benefit upon the sick and poor of Rotherhithe. Lady Gomm was also the founder of exhibitions for scholars of Keble College, Oxford, and Sir Wm. Gomm's marble bust is preserved in that College.

The present Lady of the Manor, Mrs Carr-Gomm, is the wife of Mr Francis Culling Carr, late of H.M.'s Madras Civil Service; under Lady Gomm's will she and her husband and children assumed the name of Gomm after their name of Carr.

Their eldest son, Hubert William Culling Carr-Gomm, was born June 20th, 1877, and has now (Jan. 1906) been elected M.P. in the Liberal interest for the Rotherhithe Division of the Parliamentary area of Southwark. He has likewise been appointed Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

Mr and Mrs Carr-Gomm have always proved themselves good friends to Rotherhithe, taking part in every good work in this parish.

On the occasion of their eldest son's coming of age they enfranchised the Public Baths and Washhouses, presenting the freehold of the site to the vestry of Rotherhithe.

[1] For a full account of the earlier years of Sir Wm. Gomm's career our readers are referred to a most interesting volume, entitled, "Letters and Journals of F. M. Sir Wm. Maynard Gomm, G.C.B., from 1799 to Waterloo, 1815," edited by Francis Culling Carr-Gomm. Murray. 1881.

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CHAPTER XVI.

PRINCE LEE BOO.

SINCE King Henry the Fourth made a temporary sojourn in Rotherhithe no person of royal descent has ever made our town his abode. But in the year 1783 a Prince from the North Pacific Ocean was brought here by Captain Henry Wilson. The story was a very familiar one to the young people of the early years of the nineteenth century, when fewer books were accessible than now, and the name of Prince Lee Boo was known in most English families. Indeed the present writer was told by a former medical superintendent of Guy's Hospital that when he came up from Scotland as a young student of Guy's, he was so delighted to find himself within walking distance of the grave of Prince Lee Boo that his first expedition was to Rotherhithe churchyard to read the inscription on his tomb!

An excellent account of the Pelew Islands and of the shipwreck of the East Indiaman *Antelope* on the Island of Coo-Roo-Raa, with the subsequent voyage of Captain Wilson to England accompanied by the younger son of the Rupack or King of the Island, is to be found in a rare quarto volume with many illustrations, written by George Keate, Esq., F.R.S. and S.A. The book is entitled

An
Account
of the
Pelew Islands,
Situated in the
Western Part of the Pacific Ocean
Composed from
the Journals and Communications
of
Captain Henry Wilson,

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ABBA THULLE KING of PELEW.

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LUDEE one of the Wives of ABBA THULLE.

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And some of his Officers,
Who in August 1703 were there shipwrecked
in
The Antelope,
A Packet belonging to the Honourable East India Company.
By
George Keate, Esq., F.R.S. and S.A.
London:
Printed for Captain Wilson,
and sold by G. Nicol, Bookseller to His Majesty, Pall Mall.
MDCCLXXXVIII.

The frontispiece is a fine portrait of Captain Wilson, painted by I. Russell, R.A., and engraved by I. Heath. The features are singularly beautiful, and of a calm and benign aspect.

It appears by a letter of Père Jean Antoine Cantova[1] that the inhabitants of the Pelew Islands were reputed to be "inhuman and savage; that both men and women were entirely naked, and fed upon human flesh; that the inhabitants of the Carolines looked on them with horror, as the enemies of mankind, and that they held it dangerous to have any intercourse with them."

If this dreadful picture of the Pelew Islanders were then true, their character must have happily changed before the crew of the *Antelope* were wrecked upon their shore, they being the first European visitors who ever landed there. For they experienced the greatest hospitality at their hands, and might well have exclaimed with the companions of St Paul after the shipwreck in Melita: "The barbarous people showed us no little kindness" (Acts xxviii. 2).

For the whole population of these islands, never before visited by Europeans, aided the shipwrecked crew in their enterprise of laying the keel of a new ship which might carry them back to some Chinese port from which they might hope to get a passage to England. They had been driven far out of the course of European vessels, and it was beyond

[1] *Lettres Édifiantes et Curieuses*, vol. XVIII. p. 188.

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all likelihood that any trading vessel would come that way and pick them up. So they wrought steadily at their ship, to the admiration of the natives.

When the new vessel had been completed and launched the king informed Captain Wilson that he had resolved to entrust his second son, whose name was Lee Boo, to his care that he might have the opportunity of improving himself by accompanying the English, and of learning many things which might at his return greatly benefit his own country. The ship set sail on the 12th day of November, 1783; she was named the *Oroolang*. After a fair voyage they reached Macao on Dec. 1st, and so went on to Canton. From thence Captain Wilson took passage in the *Morse*, Indiaman (Captain Joseph Elliott), for England, and they arrived safe at Portsmouth on 14th July, 1784. As soon as Lee Boo reached London he was taken to Captain Wilson's house in Paradise Row, at Rotherhithe, and was introduced to the family of his adopted father.

After he had been awhile settled, he was sent every day to an academy at Rotherhithe, to be taught reading and writing. Here he quickly gained the esteem of his master and affection of his school-fellows. He always called Mrs Wilson "Mother." With the family he was taken to church and seemed particularly pleased at going there, behaving with the utmost propriety and attention.

Captain Wilson had from the first guarded his young ward from danger of contracting diseases, especially from infection by smallpox. But unhappily he was stricken with that dreaded scourge on Dec. 16th. Mr Sharp, the ship's doctor, was assiduous in watching by his young friend till his death. He was aware of his approaching end, and taking Mr Sharp by the hand and fixing his eyes steadfastly on him, said earnestly, "Good friend, when you go to Pelew, tell Abba Thulle that Lee Boo take much drink to make smallpox go away, but he die; that the Captain and Mother very kind—all English very good men; was much sorry he could not speak to the king the number of fine things the English had got." He died on Dec. 27, 1784.

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Prince LEE BOO Second Son of ABBA THULLE.

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Captain Wilson notified his death to the India House, and received orders to conduct his funeral with all proper decency. He was interred in Rotherhithe churchyard, the captain and his brother attending. The young people of the academy were present, and a great concourse of parishioners thronged the church. The India Company soon after ordered a tomb to be erected over his grave, in which also lies the body of his friend and adopted father, Captain Henry Wilson.

The following lines, if not of a high order of poetry, have yet an interest in connection with Lee Boo:

O'er the mighty Pacific, whose soft swelling wave
A thousand bright regions eternally lave;
'Mid rocks red with coral and shell-fish abounding
The note of the parrot and pigeon resounding;
Crowned with groves of banana and taper bamboo,
Rise the gay sunny shores of the Isles of Pelew.

From China returning with silk and with tea,
The tall English vessel sails over the sea.
Ah! look; now she heaves, on the rocks she is stranded
But the boats are thrown out, and the sailors are landed;
What black men are those in the slender canoe,
Who gaze with such wonder?—the men of Pelew.

How kindly they welcome the stranger on shore,
And yams and sweet cocoa-nuts bring from their store;
But vain every effort to soften their anguish,
For home, distant home, the poor Englishmen languish;
They build a stout ship, they sail off from Pelew,
And away with the strangers goes young Prince Lee Boo.

Oh! what is his wonder and what his surprise
When in gay, busy London he opens his eyes;
Fine shops, coaches, horses. Oh! joy beyond measure.
Yes, yes! My dear friends shall partake of my pleasure;
Fine clothes, coaches, horses I'll bear to Pelew.
What wonder for them; what delight for Lee Boo!

Fond project! in vain shall his father explore
The wide shipless waves: he shall see him no more.
Oh, chide not the English thy darling detaining,
And chide not thy son 'mid the strangers remaining;
Know death has arrested him far from Pelew,
And strangers have wept o'er the gentle Lee Boo.

M. C. HOOKEY, *née* HEISCH.

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CHAPTER XVII.

THE THAMES TUNNEL.

ROTHERHITHE was much before the eyes of the world in the third and fourth decades of the nineteenth century, from its having been the scene of the great engineering enterprise of constructing a tunnel beneath the river Thames, which made the names of Marc Isambard and Isambard Kingdom Brunel famous, and which became the model of subsequent sub-aqueous tunnels carried out on the like principle and by adaptations of the same mechanical device.

Some brief account of this famous work must find a place in the History of Rotherhithe, although the details of it are well known and are found in all the encyclopædias.

The Thames Archway Company, as it was first called, was formed in 1805, and the work was begun, but suspended in 1811. The Thames Tunnel Company commenced operations in 1825. Twice during the progress of the tunnelling works they were stopped by an irruption of the river. But the younger Brunel, who was resident engineer to superintend the enterprise for his father, was distinguished by untiring vigilance and extraordinary fertility in inventions for meeting these serious difficulties, and numberless bags of clay were dropped into the river above the tunnel and the breach was stopped. The Thames Tunnel was finally opened to the public in the year 1843.

The shaft which gave access to the tunnel by a winding staircase was decorated by a Rotherhithe artist named Hankin with a series of well-executed drawings of the wonders of the world, including the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Pagoda of Pekin, etc.

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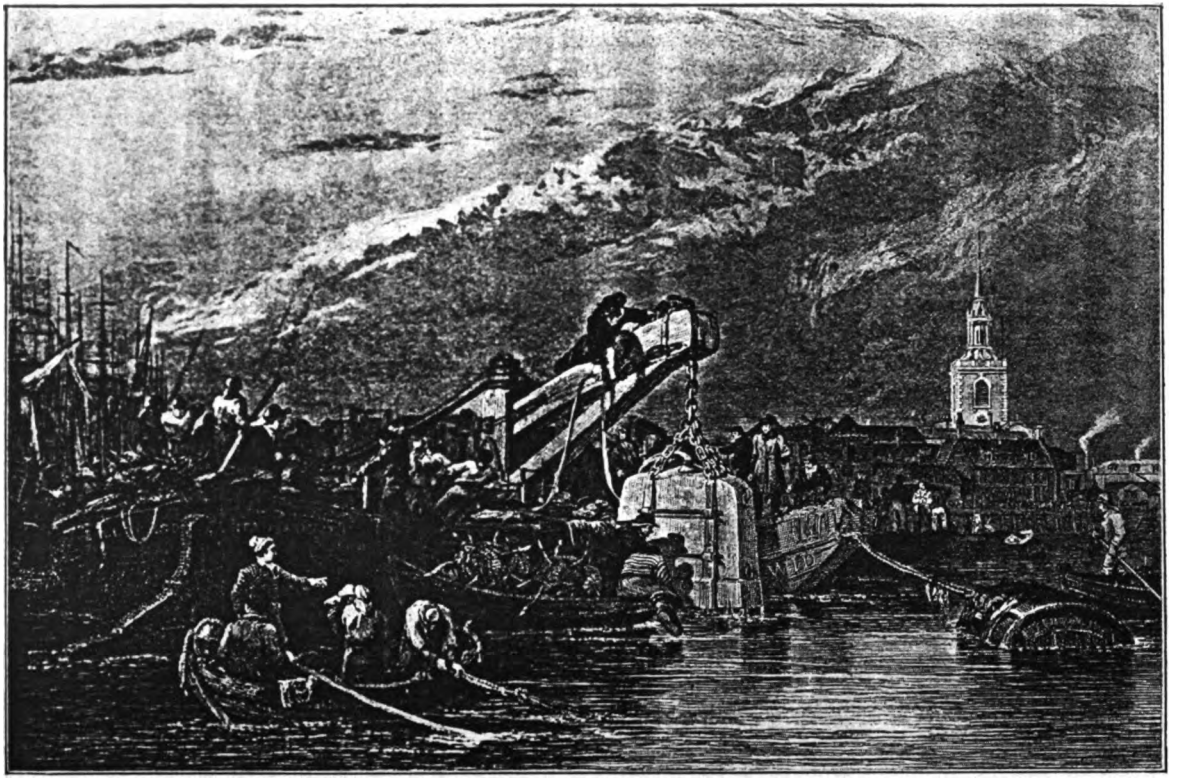

The Diving Bell at work over the Thames Tunnel.

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The drawings and model made by Brunel remained until recent years in the office of the house which was occupied by the great engineer and his son during the construction of the tunnel.

It cannot be said that the undertaking was ever a profitable concern, and the shareholders were eventually very glad to sell the tunnel to the East London Railway Company, the present proprietors. The use of the tunnel by foot-passengers has been long discontinued, and the old shops which formerly stood in the cross arches for the sale of spun glass birds-of-Paradise and other toys have been long since removed. Foreign visitors can no longer walk through the well lighted arches and admire this great feat of engineering skill, but it fulfils a more useful and lucrative purpose, connecting the southern suburbs of London with all the great railways of the Middlesex shore of the river Thames.

At the time of writing (Feb. 1906) a still more remarkable engineering feat is in progress. The southern approach to the new Rotherhithe and Shadwell Tunnel is being carried over and across the railway tunnel, which is the extension of the original Thames Tunnel.

Brunel would indeed have been astonished could he see his old work forming part of a great railway system and a yet larger tunnel being constructed at right angles to his own. His own original shield invented by him and described in a small pamphlet by the late Mr W. W. Mason, for many years the superintendent of the tunnel, is practically the model of that which is now being employed for the tunnel of the twentieth century.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

THE TIMBER DOCKS OF LONDON, AND THE DRY DOCKS OF ROTHERHITHE.

THE first dock dug in London, probably the first in England, was formed at the close of the sixteenth century, when the entrance to Canute's Dyke was enlarged and converted into a basin or dock for harbouring men-of-war. It was called the Great Howland Wet Dock, after Sir Giles Howland, of Streatham, who was a great landowner in that part of Rotherhithe.

This property eventually went by marriage of the heiress of the Howland family into the Russell family, Dukes of Bedford. In 1763 the Howland Dock and the adjoining property was sold to Messrs John and William Wells. At this period the Greenland whale fishery assumed such proportions that it gradually absorbed the entire dock, and eventually it was solely used by vessels engaged in that trade. Boilers, tanks, and houses for extracting the sperm-oil from the blubber were erected, and Howland Dock soon became known as the Greenland Dock, the name which it still bears.

In 1806 the Greenland Dock was purchased by William Ritchie, Esq., and thenceforward it was used by vessels from Norway and the Baltic laden with timber, deals, tar, etc.

In the following year the Commercial Dock Company was formed, and purchased Mr Ritchie's property, including some land in Plough Bridge Road. The first chairman of the Company was Sir Charles Price, Bart., M.P.

The Company gradually acquired the adjoining property, including Lavender Dock, Acorn Pond and Yard, together

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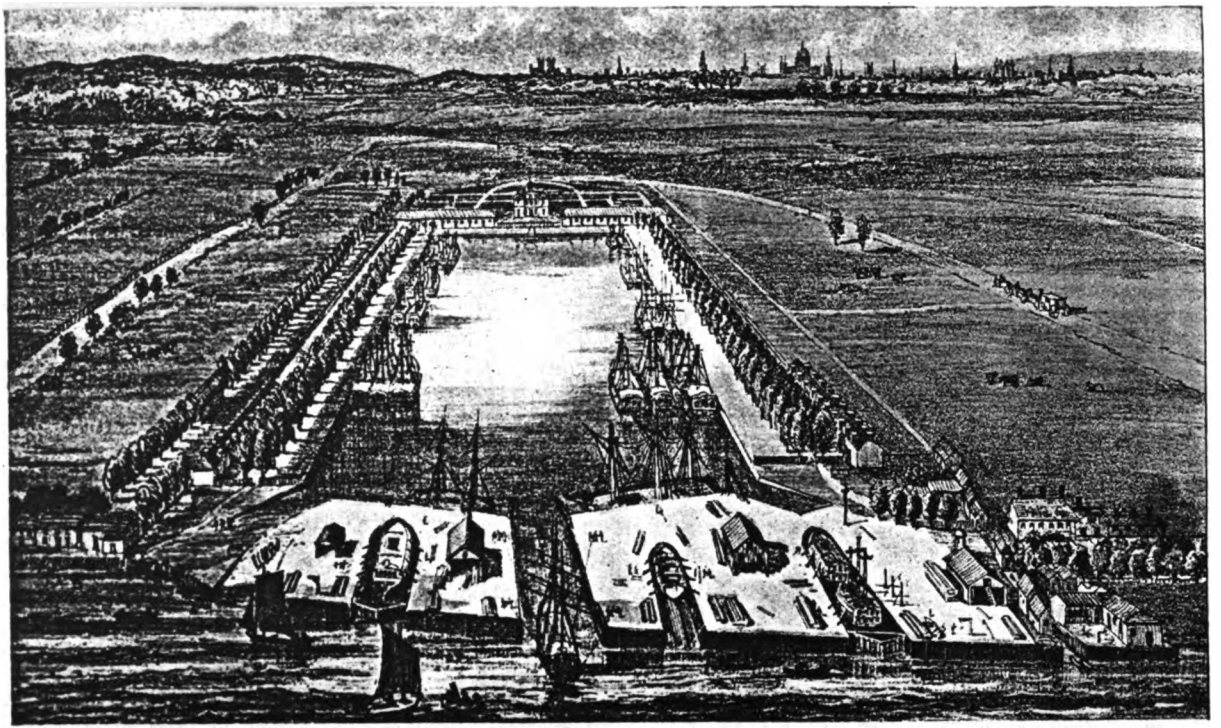

The Great Howland Wet Dock, Rotherhithe, dug in or about the year 1599, subsequently called the Greenland Dock.

Several Dry Docks were also provided on either side of the main entrance from the Thames. The extended view across the Marshes shews the Towers of Westminster Abbey and the Dome of St Paul's with other Churches in the City.

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with Lady Dock and Russia Yard. In 1851 they purchased the East Country Dock.

The Surrey Canal Company had in the meantime been growing in importance, and engaged in the construction of new basins, inner docks and timber ponds.

In 1864 an amalgamation was effected between these two important Companies, the Commercial Dock Company and the Surrey Canal Company, and it is now known as the Surrey Commercial Dock Company. The timber trade of London is concentrated in these docks, the entire area comprising 365 acres of land and water enclosed within the dock fence.

Four entrances were available at different points from the river Thames, viz. Greenland Lock constructed in 1599; South Lock, completed in 1854; Lavender Lock, opened for traffic in 1862; Surrey Canal Lock in 1860.

A new entrance has been recently opened after several years of laborious excavation, which will save the larger ships from the necessity of ascending the river at great inconvenience of navigation in that crowded part of the Lower Pool.

In addition to the vast stores of timber of every kind there are large granaries fitted with the modern appliances for moving the grain from floor to floor. There are also to be seen here ice-ships and vessels laden with sulphur from Sicily. The Allen Line of Transatlantic emigrant ships has lately begun to run their magnificent fleet from these docks at intervals of a fortnight to Montreal and Quebec, and the Thompson Liners also run to Canada from the Rotherhithe Docks.

The Surrey Commercial Dock Company is exceedingly well managed, the directors being practical men engaged themselves in the timber trade, and conducting their great enterprise on sound principles which commend themselves to the great shipping firms as well as to the exporters of the Baltic and Canadian ports.

Timber is indeed the staple of Rotherhithe, as leather is of the adjoining parish of Bermondsey, and vast numbers of

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our people earn their living in connection with these timber docks.

The Company is also a generous friend to the Church, and to the National Schools of our parish.

In Prince's Dock one of the numerous dry docks of Rotherhithe Street, was built the *Hawk*, a fast sailing ship designed for the fruit trade. The master was Captain Becco, an Italian seaman, who sailed her for some years and made his home in Walker Place, Lower Road, where he eventually died greatly respected.

The subsequent history of the *Hawk* is very interesting. She was bought by the Reverend Robert Eden, who was afterwards Bishop of Moray and Ross in 1851, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. His object was to provide a missionary ship for the use of his friend Dr Edward Feild, who had been appointed Bishop of Newfoundland (including Bermuda), in order that he might be able to visit the out-harbours of that island which were only accessible by sea. After he had presented Bishop Feild with this valuable Church ship, Mr Eden had the happiness to know that that most apostolic missionary Bishop was every alternate summer to be found visiting the distant settlements on the Newfoundland and on the Labrador coast, and the Church at home as well as the donor of the ship were thrilled with enthusiasm at the journals published from time to time by Bishop Feild.

After a time as the Bishop advanced in years he found in Archdeacon Kelly a devoted coadjutor who took up the sea work, and by this time the *Hawk* was thought to be scarcely seaworthy. A new missionary ship, the *Star*, was built at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in her Bishop Kelly made several voyages, bringing untold blessings to the fishermen and their families in their lonely settlements, "and when they saw the *Star* they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." The journal of one of her missionary voyages was published by the Rector of Rotherhithe, who was Commissary to the Bishop, and was printed by W. Clinkskell of Rotherhithe. On one of these missionary journeys the *Star* was unhappily

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wrecked in the narrow entrance to a rock-girt harbour aptly named a "Tickle," by the fishermen of Newfoundland. The Bishop and his skipper and crew escaped with their lives, but all else was lost.

This misfortune led to a very noble act of missionary zeal. A young officer of the Engineers, Mr Curling, who had known the Bishop when stationed in Bermuda, where he was aide-de-camp to the governor Sir Frederic Chapman, on learning the news of the wreck wrote to Mr Beck, the Bishop's Commissary, and offered to present his own yacht, the *Lavrock*, for the missionary service of Newfoundland. This offer was gratefully accepted and Mr Curling had her fitted up as a Church ship and then himself navigated her across the Atlantic. But the story does not end there. The Annual Day of Intercession for Missions had just been instituted, and as the firstfruits of the prayers then offered up, Mr Curling next year offered himself to be ordained for missionary work in Newfoundland and was placed by the Bishop in the Bay of Islands[1].

The venerable Bishop Feild was once on a visit to Rotherhithe Rectory, and after preaching at the Parish Church on the Sunday morning he expressed his strong wish to see the dock in which his old ship the *Hawk* had been built. Walking down to St Paul's Chapel for the Evening Service we halted at Prince's Dock, where the owner Mr Robertson and the foreman shipwright were in readiness to receive the Bishop and to show him the dry dock in which his much-loved vessel (δεξιὸς ὄρνις he loved to call her) was built, and the foreman assured him that he had worked on her with his own hands. He told the shipwrights of her good deeds in the Lord's service, and added that while her successor had gone to the bottom, she herself was still afloat in the coasting trade of Newfoundland.

[1] The Rev. J. J. Curling died Nov. 17, 1906, as these sheets are being passed through the press.

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CHAPTER XIX.

THE WATERMEN'S STAIRS AND FOOTWAYS.

THE public stairs or plying-places of watermen in the parish of Rotherhithe are given below in the order in which they are situated from west to east.

1. Rotherhithe Stairs, 2290 yds. below London Bridge.
2. King Stairs at the end of King Street (now called Fulford Street).
3. Prince's Stairs at the end of Prince's Street.
4. Elephant Stairs at the end of Elephant Lane.
5. Church Stairs at the east end of the parish church.
6. Hanover Stairs at the end of Hanover Street (now called Neston Street).
7. Surrey Canal Stairs.
8. King and Queen Stairs, adjoining the King and Queen Granary.
9. Globe Stairs at the end of Globe Street (now called Beatson Street).
10. Horseferry Stairs by the Horseferry Dock.
11. Pageants' Stairs, adjoining "The Pageants."
12. Cuckold's Point Stairs, adjoining Cuckold's Point.
13. Acorn Stairs, near "The Acorn."
14. Dog and Duck Stairs, near "The Dog and Duck."

The origin of these stairs cannot be traced. They were formed for the purpose of giving free access to the river, that the inhabitants might obtain water in days when there was no other water supply and the Thames was an unpolluted stream fit for drinking as well as for all other uses.

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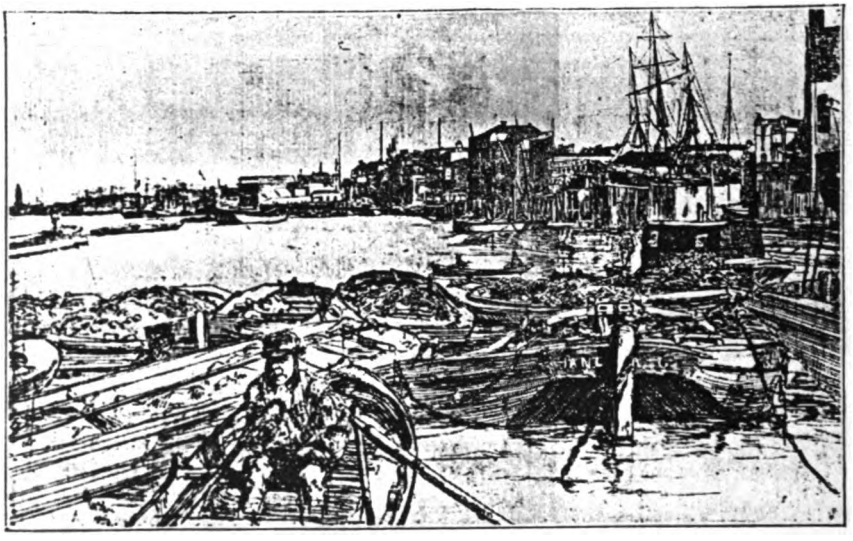

Off Rotherhithe. Whistler.

From the Illustrated London News.

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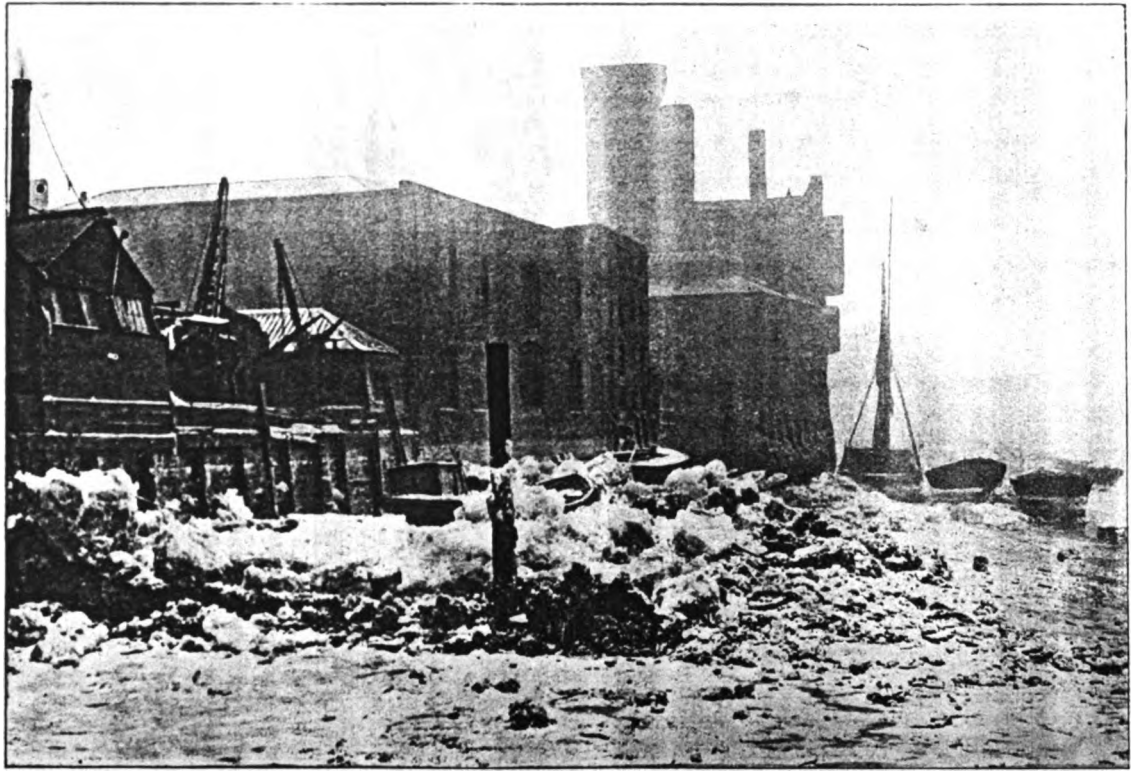

View taken during the severe frost of 1895, off Messrs Hay and Son's Wharf, looking West, shewing Brandram's Granaries, Grice's Wharf, Church Stairs and White's Rice Mills, with the spire of the Parish Church.

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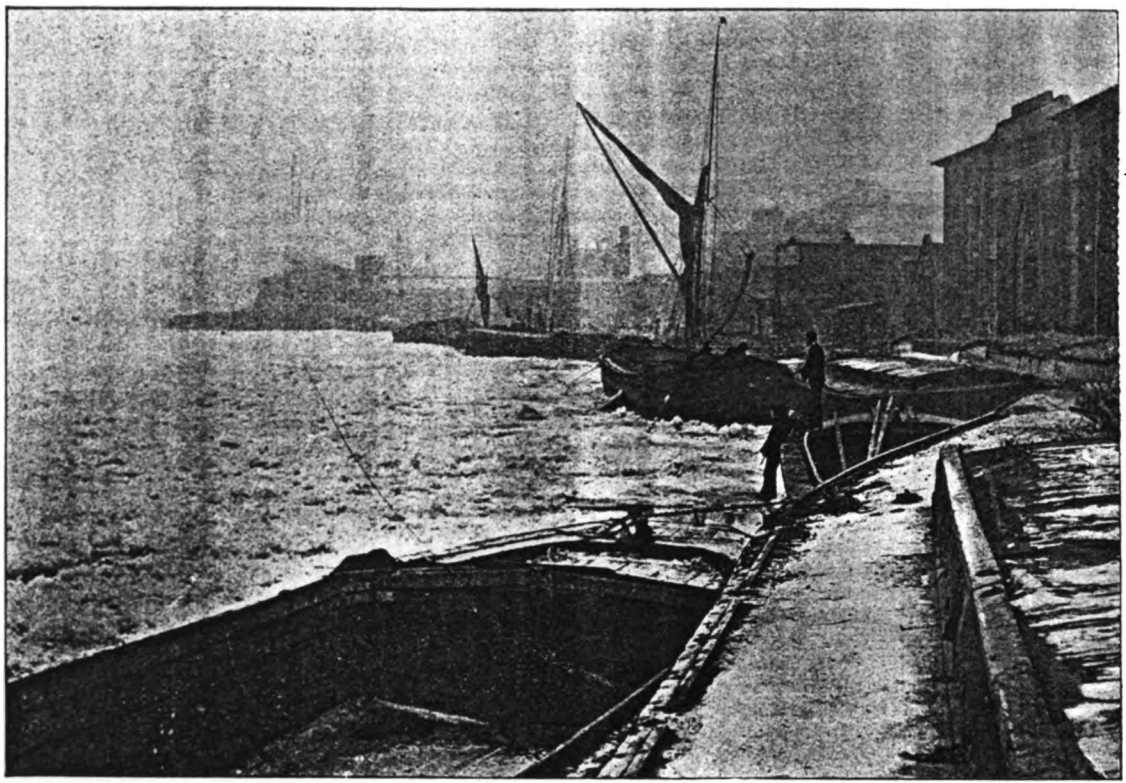

View taken during the severe frost of 1895, off Hay and Son's Wharf, looking East, shewing the Lighter-barges blocked by the ice.

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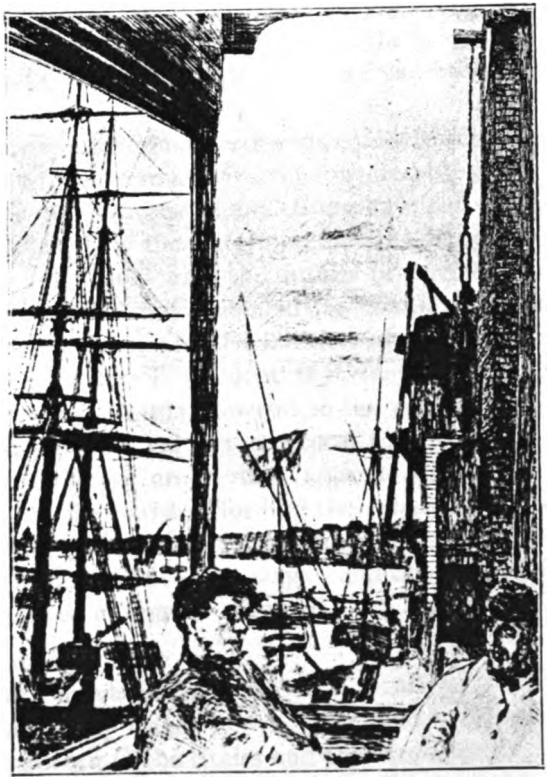

The Thames below London Bridge.
After Whistler.

From the Illustrated London News.

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The stairs likewise afforded free landing-places for the embarking and landing of goods in watermen's boats. The passages leading to the stairs are public rights of way, paved and repaired by the parish.

The watermen who ply at the stairs hold their rights from the Watermen's Company, to whom they have been apprenticed in youth. The hire they are entitled to receive for carrying passengers up and down the river and for ferrying them across to the opposite shore is fixed by the Watermen's Company.

There were Sunday ferries also, which were annually sold by auction and were a source of considerable profit.

When the Thames Tunnel Company had completed their great undertaking the watermen saw the hopes of their gain greatly diminished and the future prospects of their craft endangered, and they appealed for compensation to the law courts. But the financial condition of the Tunnel Company was so embarrassed by debt that they were never able to pay the compensation awarded to the watermen, whose trade is sadly impoverished to the present time.

The footways are certain approaches to the shore belonging to the parish, affording the inhabitants the privilege of landing goods, coal, corn, timber, etc., thus saving wharf dues. Some are "five-foot ways" and others "ten-foot ways." They are ten in number, situated

1. at West Lane.
2. at Church Stairs.
3. at Surrey Canal.
4. between Globe Stairs and the Horseferry.
5. between the Horseferry and "The Pageants."
6. at "The Black Horse."
7. at Lower Queen Street.
8. at Brocklebank's Wharf.
9. at Commercial Dock Pier.
10. at the Dock below.

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CHAPTER XX.

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF ROTHERHITHE AND THE OLD CIVIL FORCE.

DURING the Middle Ages the civil government of the parish was probably confided to the parochial vestry, consisting of the rector and churchwardens, *ex officio*, with a certain number of the most substantial inhabitants. These gentlemen had charge of the highways and byways, the watching at night, the lighting of the streets—so far as they were lighted—and the protection of life and property. There were always Justices of the Peace resident in Rotherhithe in earlier days, so that offenders could be speedily dealt with. The churchwardens demanded an annual church-rate at Easter, and the open vestry made no difficulty in passing it, for the care of the church and graveyards, and the maintenance of Divine service were recognized public duties. There was also a poor-rate for the support of the aged poor, and a general rate for all public charges.

It was not, however, until after the Restoration of King Charles the Second in 1660 that the parish vestry was legally constituted, and it is to be remarked as showing the great influence of the Church on the life of the nation that to the chancellor of the bishop of the diocese recourse was had for the granting a constitution under which the parishioners might meet in vestry to transact the business of the parish.

The following is the first charter of our vestry, with the rules drawn up for the conduct of its business.

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Extract from the Order of the Bishop of Winchester authorising the Parishioners of Rotherhithe to hold a Vestry. Dated November 16th, 1673, and prefixed to the first Minute Book of the Vestry.

Mondeford Bramston Knt., D^r^ of Lawes, and Chancel^r^ to the Reverend ffather in GOD, George[1] by Divine Providence Lord Bpp: of Winton lawfully appoynted.

To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, And especially to the Rector, Churchwardens and other p̄ishoners of the Parish of Redriffe in y^e^ County of Surrey and of the Diocese of Winchester Sendeth greeting in our Lord GOD everlasting.

Whereas the Rector Churchwardens and other Parishioners of the said parish hath made petition to me for a Vestry to be holden and kept within their said parish w^ch^ heretofore have not bin so well carried and ordered as the better and graver sort of the said parisho^rs^ have desired and wished.

And whereas I am very well certified y^t^ the p̄sons hereafter named are conformable to the government and discipline of y^e^ Church of England as it is now by law established, and have before me or my Surrogate duely subscribed y^e^ declaration and acknowledgm^t^ in the late wholsome good Act Intituled an Act for the Uniformity of publicke prayers and Administrāion of Sacram^ts^ and other Rites and Ceremonies, And for the establyshing y^e^ forme of making, ordaining and consecrating Bpps, priests and deacons in the Church of England according as it is Injoined also by a late act of parliament made in the 15^th^ year of our now dread Soveraigne Lord Charles the 2^nd^ by the Grace of GOD of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland King, defender of the faith or Intituled an act for regulating Select Vestryes beginning thus, viz^t^ for the prevention of the evills w^ch^ may arise from y^e^ Vestrymen not conforming to y^e^ governm^t^ and discipline

[1] i.e. George Morley, Bishop of Winchester 1662, in succession to Brian Duppa, 1660–2.

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of ye Church of England as it is now by Law established... and ending thus vizt provided yt this Act shall continue in force to ye end of the first Session of Parliamt and no longer. I, therefore, according to ye requests well likeing of their Godly minds and Christian care therein for the good of ye said parishonrs and quiet governmt of the sd parish by Vestry there established, have thought good by ys my handwriteing and under the Seale of my office to ratifie and confirme for a present and continual Vestry to be holden in the said parish of Redriffe these orders and p̄ticulars following, promiseing to aid and assist them in the due execution thereof where and as offten as occasion shall require.

. . . . . .

The minutes of the first Vestry meeting held on Feb. 12, 1673, are as follows:—

At a Vestry then held it was agreed that the Churchwardens doe pay five Pounds Towards the procuring an Act of Parliament to prevent Vexatious Suites for Trifles, and that the said money be paid to Justice Reading for yt end.

The Church Officers chosen for the year 1674 were

Mr Edmd Raynor
Mr Tho: Marten } Churchwardens.

John Alwood
Matt: Gron } Sidesmen.

The Old Civil Force.

The original watch-house was in Church Passage, but it was afterwards removed to the entrance to the new burial-ground on the opposite side of Church Street. The parish was divided into two districts, each of which had its watch-house. The east or lower district was established in 1816, and its watch-house was in Trinity Street. This parish being without the City bounds, its watch was regulated by a local Act. The establishment consisted of a beadle, constables, headboroughs, street-keepers, and watchmen. There were

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14 watchmen for the upper district, and 12 for the lower. These men called the hours of the night and the weather: "Past 10 o'clock; a fair night!" or "Past 2 o'clock; a cloudy morning!" They had watch-boxes, wore white overcoats, and carried lanthorns. There were besides the patrols or silent watchmen, who perambulated all the dark nooks and corners; they were dressed in blue, and wore cutlasses.

Mr Harrap, the boot and shoemaker, formerly one of the patrol, was the last survivor of this primitive body. He held the stocks which stood close to the north gate of the church, and were last used in 1825.

These ancient guardians of the night were commonly called "Charlies." The following *jeu d'esprit* perhaps explains the designation:

Under a pediment in front of the old Southwark Town Hall on St Margaret's Hill was a statue of Charles II which, in 1793, was removed to the roof of a watch-house in Three Crown Square, High Street. A figure of Justice which, with one of Wisdom, had formerly supported the Lord Mayor's seat in the Hall, was placed near the bar of a neighbouring coffee-house.

Justice and Charles have left the Hill,
The City claimed their place;
Justice resides at Dick West's still,
But mark poor Charles' case;
Justice, safe from wind and weather,
Keeps the tavern score;
But Charlie, turned out altogether,
Keeps the watch-house door!

The police force superseded the old watchmen under Sir Robert Peel's ministry in 1830, and his constables were nicknamed "Bobbies" or "Peelers."

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CHAPTER XXI.

A CHAPTER OF CRIMES.

THE history of our parish has been happily very free from capital crimes. Until the middle of the 19th century had passed by no single instance of murder had occurred within the limits of Rotherhithe since 1805. This in a locality inhabited by a population somewhat rough and quarrelsome is certainly a fact to be rejoiced at.

There had, however, in the 18th century been some appalling murders committed, of which some account should be given here.

MARY EDMONDSON, 1759.

There was much mystery in this case. This unhappy girl was convicted and executed for the murder of her aunt. She was the daughter of a farmer living near Leeds in Yorkshire. She went to reside with her aunt, a widow lady named Walker, in Rotherhithe. She lived with this aunt for two years, and conducted herself well and performed her religious duties regularly.

A lady named Toucher having spent the evening with Mrs Walker, Mary Edmondson lighted her across the street on her way home; and, shortly after her return, a woman who cried oysters through the streets observed that the door was open and heard the girl cry out, "Help! murder! they have killed my aunt."

Edmondson ran to the house of a Mrs Odell, wringing her hands; and, the alarm being given, some gentlemen who were spending the evening at a public-house determined to enquire into the affair.

They found Mrs Walker with her throat cut, lying on her right side, and her head near a table which was covered with linen.

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The girl, on being questioned, said that four men had entered at the back door. One put his arms round her aunt's neck, another, a tall man dressed in black, swore that he would kill her if she spoke a single word.

Mr Holloway, noticing that the girl's arm was cut, asked her how it happened. She replied that one of the men, in attempting to get out, had jammed it in the door. But there was no appearance of any men having been in the house, and the girl Edmondson was at once suspected of being the murderess.

The coroner's jury next day brought in a verdict of wilful murder against her, and she was committed to prison.

Mrs Walker's executors traced the watch; and some other articles which the girl said had been carried off by the men were discovered hidden under the floor.

She was tried at Kingston assizes, and convicted and condemned to die.

She asserted her innocence to the last. She was executed on Kennington Common on April 2nd, 1759.

CORBETT THE MURDERER, 1764.

There is a narrow and lonely thoroughfare near the Deptford boundary of this parish which is known by the name of Corbett's Lane. Few now living realize the meaning of the ill-omened name.

William Corbett is believed to have been born at Portsmouth in New Hampshire, North America, and bred a shipwright. His mother dying when he was quite young, he ran away to Connecticut in New England, where he joined a sloop and made one or two voyages; but not living so well as he expected on board the ship, he deserted, and when he reached Boston he contracted himself with a gentleman who dealt in lumber, which he sent in vessels to the West Indies.

Corbett made several voyages in his service, but he became much addicted to drink and theft, and incurred frequent correction. At length he sailed to Newfoundland with one Captain Warton, and as he was a good ship's carpenter he

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might have done well, but his irregularities obliged the captain to dismiss him. He readily found employment in repairing fishing-vessels; but, getting into debt, he took ship for Barbados to avoid imprisonment.

After this we hear of him settled at Halifax in Nova Scotia. At length he sailed to England, and soon associated with the worst company in Wapping and Rotherhithe.

He took lodgings in the house of a Mr Knight, a publican at Rotherhithe. The family consisted only of the landlord, his wife, and the maid-servant. After only a few weeks he conceived the horrible intention of murdering them all three, but the servant escaped with her life.

At the Surrey assizes in 1764 William Corbett was indicted for the murder of Henry Knight and Ann, his wife, by cutting their throats, and on a further charge of robbing the house. He was found guilty on his own confession and on a variety of collateral evidence.

After having committed the murders he rifled the house of money, and even put on some of Mr Knight's linen and other clothes. He then crossed the river to Billingsgate, where he was apprehended.

After conviction he acknowledged that he had endeavoured to set fire to Mr Knight's house. He was executed on Kennington Common on April 4, 1764, and his dead body was then hung in chains on the road between Rotherhithe and Deptford.

There is another account of Corbett, which represents that he was an outcast who had been sheltered by the aged couple who kept a public-house by the riverside, near the end of Cherry Garden Street.

The maid-servant had observed his strange demeanour in the silence of the night and had hidden herself under the staircase. It is said that when he was brought back to Rotherhithe on a Sunday morning the public excitement was so intense that his capture was announced from the pulpit and the service interrupted in the church! He was taken before Justice Gillam, and committed to gaol; and after trial and execution his body was gibbetted in the lane near "The Jolly

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Gardeners" in Rotherhithe New Road. The horrible spectacle attracted vast numbers of curious sight-seers, and the nuisance became so great that the parish authorities, after several months had elapsed, caused the gibbet to be removed; not, however, until one human life had been sacrificed.

For a gruesome story is told of a foolish braggart who laid a wager at a tavern in Bermondsey that he would cross the fields to Rotherhithe in the night and would ask Corbett "how he was."

The rest of the party set out by a shorter route, and one of them concealed himself in a tree, so that when the other man stood beneath the gibbet and addressed the wretched object in the clanking irons, enquiring how he fared, a voice replied in sepulchral tones, "Cold, wet, and hungry." The miserable wagerer, convinced that it was Corbett's ghost that spoke, terror-stricken fled to his home, took to his bed, and two days afterwards died from nervous fever induced by the fright.

The lonesome spot still bears the criminal's name, "Corbett's Lane," and from being a haunt of evil characters was often called "Rogues' Lane," and sometimes "Cut-throat Lane." But at the present time, though still the neighbourhood is occupied by somewhat offensive trades, slaughter-houses, size manufactories, and the like, the spread of building operations has brought new streets all round, and the unhappy associations which made the spot notorious have been forgotten, and St Katharine's Church and vicarage, with large Sunday-schools, minister to the spiritual needs of a thickly populated district where the old scandals are unremembered by all but a few of the older folk.

RICHARD PATCH.

Yet another capital crime was committed in Rotherhithe at the beginning of the 19th century, and this time the truth of the saying "murder will out" was exemplified in a remarkable manner, for the artful measures adopted by the murderer to divert suspicion from himself and if possible to attach the guilt to another entirely failed.

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The murdered man was Mr Isaac Blight, a shipbreaker, who lived at the farthest point of the parish of Rotherhithe, near "Sweeting's Dock," close to the newly formed entrance from the river into the Surrey Commercial Docks. Richard Patch was his ungrateful servant. Patch was born in the year 1770 at the village of Heavitree, near Exeter. His family was respectable among the yeomen of Devonshire. The grandfather of Richard Patch had a freehold estate in land of the value of £50 per annum in a neighbouring village.

His father had the reputation of being a smuggler, which was not an uncommon resource of the small farmers near the sea-coast in distant parts of the country; and as it was only "defrauding the public revenue" the moral offence was lightly regarded, and detection was not easily effected when all the neighbours were ready to screen the offender.

However, the smuggler was caught at last, tried, and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in Exeter gaol, where at the expiration of his term he remained as one of the turnkeys. In this situation he died.

Richard, his eldest son, had been apprenticed to a butcher, but on succeeding to the small estate he turned his attention to farming, but with little success. His farm was soon mortgaged, and in 1803 he quitted Devonshire and came to London.

His sister was at this time living as domestic servant with Mr Blight, and another brother was also living there as a foreman in the shipping business.

Mr Blight had formerly been a West India merchant, but had failed: upon which he had engaged in the shipbreaking business, and was carrying it on with great success, notwithstanding embarrassments arising from his former creditors.

Richard Patch had now entered the service of Mr Blight, and his brother, perhaps from jealousy, left and went to sea.

In 1804 Patch was able to dispose of his land, and received a nett sum of £350 for it, and he appears to have placed £250 of the purchase money in his master's hands.

The trial of Richard Patch for the murder of Mr Isaac Blight took place after considerable delay at the Surrey

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adjourned sessions, Horsemonger Lane Prison, before the Lord Chief Baron, Sir Archibald Macdonald, on Saturday, April 5th, 1806, and a graphic account of the proceedings has been preserved.

An extraordinary degree of curiosity had been excited, and immense crowds surrounded the approach to the Court House as soon as it was light.

The judge arrived in the crowded court at 10 o'clock, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Sussex and Cumberland, and his Excellency the Russian Ambassador. These illustrious personages took their seats on the bench, and remained till the conclusion of the trial. The venue had been changed from the assizes at Kingston, where premature reports of the case had been spread which might have operated to the prejudice of the prisoner.

The indictment was read. It charged the prisoner that he "in the parish of St Mary Rotherhithe in the county of Surrey not having the fear of GOD before his eyes but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil did on the 23rd September in the 45th year of the reign of our Lord the King (1805) in the parish aforesaid feloniously wilfully and of malice aforethought assault one Isaac Blight then and there being in the peace of GOD and of our said Lord the King and that he with a certain pistol of the value of five shillings loaded with gunpowder and leaden bullet which he then and there held in his right hand at him the said Isaac Blight did shoot off and discharge: and the body of the said Isaac did punctuate and wound on the right side thereby inflicting on him a wound of the breadth of one inch and of the depth of nine inches on which he languished and languishing did live until the 24th of the same September and then died..."

The prisoner pleaded Not guilty.

The first witness called by the Crown was *Richard Frost:* he said he kept the "Dog and Duck." On the evening of 23rd Sept. between 8 and 9 he received an alarm from Hester Kitchener. He went directly to Mr Blight's premises. He saw Mr Blight sitting in the arm-chair...on the left-hand side

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of the fireplace in the back parlour. Mr Patch was standing in the room. Mr Blight was...supporting himself with his two hands.

Mr Astley Cooper, Surgeon[1]: "I was called in about three hours after Mr Blight received his wound...I found him lying on the floor...I desired he might be carried up to bed...I ordered every person out of the room except the surgeons, Patch the prisoner, and a Mr Ferguson....The wounds were described...one about two inches from the navel on the right side, another in the loin on the same side...the anterior one had the appearance of a gunshot wound...the contents of the bowels could be seen...the wounds were pronounced mortal...." Mr Cooper staid till next morning at 7...he asked Mr Blight whether there was any person whom he suspected of having committed the act. His answer was: "No—God knows I never did any man an injury that could lead him to take my life: but Patch has mentioned to me a man of the name of Webster." On being questioned Patch said this Webster was a man who was suspected of having robbed the premises. Mr Cooper suggested that the Bow Street officers should be sent for, but Patch objected.

Mr Blight's affairs not having been settled, Patch fetched the will, and Mr Blight directed that the names of Patch and Ferguson should be added as executors, and then Mr Blight with considerable difficulty signed the will. Next morning Mr Cooper left his patient and returned with Dr Barrington. Mr Blight was dead, and his body being opened his bowels were found to be cut in three different places. The will was sealed and deposited with Mr Brent.

Other witnesses were the servant, Hester Kitchener, and neighbours who were passing and heard the shot fired, but deposed that no one passed out of the gate into the street; also the widow of Mr Blight, giving information about money transactions between her late husband and Patch.

The evidence submitted to the jury was, by the nature of the case, purely circumstantial, but it satisfied both the Chief

[1] This was the famous Surgeon, afterwards Sir Astley Cooper, of Guy's Hospital.

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Baron and the jury that he was the murderer of Mr Blight, and he was found guilty and condemned to death, and executed at Kennington.

There remains one further point which is related in the *Life of Sir Astley Cooper* by his nephew and biographer, viz., the singular discovery that convinced the great surgeon that Patch was the murderer of his master.

After examining the wounds, Mr Cooper closely examined the spot on which the act was perpetrated. He placed himself in the position in which Mr Blight was when he received the fatal wound, and with his natural acuteness he perceived at once that it was a left-handed man who had fired the shot, for only such a person could have concealed his own person while firing the pistol. This fact made such a deep impression upon his mind that he made enquiry whether Patch were in fact a left-handed man—and he found that in fact he was so —and from that moment he became absolutely convinced of Patch's guilt.

ARSON.

Incendiary fires prevailed in Rotherhithe during the months of November and December, 1834, the supposed perpetrator of this diabolical crime being one Palmer, a police constable, who was arrested and committed for trial at the Old Bailey Sessions in 1835, but the grand jury threw out the bill.

This calamitous series of fires happened soon after the establishment of the police force, and before it had attained the confidence and popularity which it later on enjoyed; and there was a feeling that if possible the stigma which his conviction would have entailed on the civil power should be avoided.

Strange to say, all these fires broke out within Palmer's beat, and not a single conflagration occurred after his committal and subsequent discharge.

So much alarm and excitement prevailed in the parish that the fire-engine was kept constantly parading the streets ready for action; and the inhabitants might be daily seen in groups speculating as to the locality of the next night's fire.

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The first fire occurred in Gillam's Court, which was happily subdued without much damage being done: but the second was sadly destructive, the whole of the north-west angle of Church Street (Webb's corner), including Scales' (Finnister's) corner of Clark's orchard, falling a prey to the flames, which then extended to the opposite side and destroyed the ancient Europa Tavern, a wooden building.

Next following was the destruction of the tar merchant's premises (Mr Brook's), with the boat-builder's yard adjoining.

Thames Tunnel Wharf succeeded, and this was the most destructive fire of all, involving the destruction of the Blue Mountains, a granary (next in magnitude to the King and Queen Granaries), together with the Spread Eagle public-house, at that time kept by a Mr Poole.

Then came a fire at Welby's, the carpenter and painter (opposite Stokes', in Rotherhithe Street). Many more minor fires occurred; the last was the burning of a collier ship in the Surrey Canal, which was scuttled to save it from entire destruction.

Sacrilegious Violation of new-made Graves.

In the earlier part of the nineteenth century the churchyard was still enclosed by a brick wall, which has long since been replaced by an open railing on a dwarf wall. The surgeons of Guy's Hospital naturally wanted subjects for dissection in order to instruct the students in the anatomy of the human body, and there were to be found unscrupulous men ready to supply the demand. These miscreants were commonly called "resurrection men," and they informed themselves as to the interments that had day by day taken place in this and other parishes within reach of the London Hospitals.

The writer has been told by one of the older inhabitants of Rotherhithe (since dead) that the friends of the deceased united to keep watch for a week or so inside the churchyard wall lest the grave of their departed friend should be rifled of its tenant. Science has its claims; but our feelings of natural affection must also be respected.

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CHAPTER XXII.

ROTHERHITHE OF TO-DAY.

THE various religious and social institutions which have been set on foot for the benefit of the labouring classes and other inhabitants of Rotherhithe have been a marked feature of our parochial life during the past thirty years, keeping pace with the rapid growth of the population; and in this great movement the Church and the Nonconformist bodies have taken part with great zeal and with no small measure of success. Happily our religious differences can be forgotten for a time when the crying need for fresh efforts in the social improvement of the masses makes itself heard and felt. And in this closing chapter it will be well that some brief account should be given of the present state of the religious and social work of the various bodies of Christians who are to be found in the neighbourhood.

The older Nonconformists of Rotherhithe carried on their work on a humble scale. A hundred years ago the Chapel in Midway Place was the centre of much earnest work under the ministry of the Reverend Thomas Beck, who gathered a congregation round him who were much attached to their pastor. The Sunday School in connection with this body was largely attended by children from the neighbouring streets.

The Wesleyan Methodists have several flourishing places of worship. The older Chapel formerly in Albion Street has been replaced by the handsome stone building in the London Road, and it is conducted with great vigour by the Reverend J. Scott Lidgett who is also the Warden of the Bermondsey Settlement, a large educational institution planted by the

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Wesleyan body some years since in Farncombe Street, to the great benefit of the inhabitants of that district.

There are also other Wesleyan bodies with Chapels in Rotherhithe. The United Methodists in Albion Street, the Primitive Methodists in the Union Road and the old Silver Street Chapel in the lower end of the parish, which is now worked from the Southwark Park Chapel in the Lower Road. The large Sunday Schools are a great feature of all these Methodist congregations.

A Congregational Chapel in Maynard Road upholds the principles of that highly progressive body. In Derrick Street a Seamen's and Boatmen's Mission has been maintained for some years past with considerable success.

But probably the most successful of all the religious enterprises that have been set on foot in Rotherhithe of late years is the large "Free Church," in the Lower Road, of which Mr Thomas Richardson is the pastor. The first pastor and founder of this congregation was Mr Golding, who was much beloved by his flock, but whose early death was a great blow to the cause.

However his successor Mr Richardson has shown the greatest zeal and energy and the congregation has become very large. It is understood that the doctrinal tenets of that body are those of the Baptists, yet with some distinctive differences. The old Baptist Chapel lower down the road, formerly under the charge of the Reverend Mr Butterfield, would probably be in some points more truly identical with the teaching of the original Anabaptists.

Mr Richardson's social work is a great feature of his plans for the elevation of the people. Every Sunday afternoon the large Meeting Room of the Rotherhithe Town Hall is filled with working men, whom he influences in a remarkable degree by his homely method of speech.

In the present year, 1906, a large Hall has been erected by the exertions of Pastor Richardson for his growing work; and the name of "*Rotherhithe Free Church*" has been superseded by that of the "*Rotherhithe Great Hall.*" Neither of these designations affords much clue to the doctrinal character

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of the instruction there given. But the strength of it lies in the homely and simple enforcement of the old Gospel message.

But beside these various religious denominations two others must be mentioned:—one in Paradise Street, commonly known as the Ark, was founded more than forty years since by a good Christian man named Reuben Harris, who had been a Church Sunday School teacher under the Reverend Edward Blick, Rector of Rotherhithe. Mr Harris could not, however, be contented with the old Church ways, and set up a place of worship with a large Sunday School on independent lines. To this work he devoted all his energies, and he was rewarded by the love of his followers, and by the esteem and respect of all his neighbours till his death. "The Ark" still continues as a place of "undenominational" religion, and is much appreciated by those who attend its services[1].

The other Institution of which we must make brief mention is that founded and conducted by Mr F. Morris in the Lower Road, and called by him St Winifred's. It is undenominational in teaching, and Mr Morris has the greatest sympathy with the Church of England and never adopts any controversial methods. He has large Sunday Schools and clubs. He has recently taken over Dr Billington's Chapel.

It will be observed that the greater number of the Nonconformist centres of Christian work are situated in the Lower Road, or in very close proximity to it. Indeed it is essential to their success that they should be well in the public eye. In this they of course differ from the Church, which always makes provision for the people in the localities in which they live, dealing with them in parishes and bringing the word of God within easy reach of every parishioner.

The social work of All Saints, Christ Church, St Barnabas, and St Katharine's, as well as of the Clare College Mission, is

[1] A sister of Mr Harris left her Rotherhithe home in early life and settled in Canada and subsequently lived in the United States of America, where she married an Irish gentleman named Donohue. They had one son, the Reverend Charles Donohue, who is now a Clergyman of the Episcopal Church of America and has a Parish in Grand Rapids in the Diocese of Western Michigan; he has recently paid a visit to his relations in Rotherhithe.

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a very important feature of their religious organizations; and the Chapel of St Paul in the Mother Church district has of late years developed the social side of Christian work with remarkable success. Holy Trinity is beginning under its new Vicar to do the same.

The Public Free Library, originally in a fine building adjoining Southwark Park, and lately transferred to the Rotherhithe Town Hall, provides a most valuable supply of books of all descriptions which cannot fail to help those who desire to carry on their own education after school age. The London County Council has made full use of the sixty acres of Southwark Park, inherited from the Metropolitan Board of Works, as a playground for this part of South London; and ample provision is made for all athletic games as well as for the enjoyment of younger children.

A very interesting series of Popular Concerts of good music were given some years since by the People's Entertainment Society on Saturday evenings during several winters; and these concerts, which were always largely attended by workmen and their families, did much to minister to the innate love of music in the human heart, to raise the tone of the audiences, and to cultivate their musical faculty, which had been little in advance of the music-hall style of song. The president of this society was Viscount Folkestone (afterwards the Earl of Radnor), and Lady Folkestone came every week to Rotherhithe with other musical amateurs to delight us with their charming songs. On one occasion H.R.H. the late Duke of Albany paid us a visit to witness the performance and expressed his great interest in the movement.

Natural history and botany may likewise be studied with advantage in the collection of waterfowl on the Ornamental Water, and in the beautiful Winter Garden, which is always filled with flowering plants which equal anything which is to be found in the conservatories of the wealthy and are here cultivated for the enjoyment of the humblest of our neighbours.

Our enumeration of the religious influences at work in Rotherhithe would be incomplete if we failed to speak of the work of the Roman Catholic Church for the Irish population

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which is settled here in large numbers, being chiefly employed as deal porters in the Docks.

A small Church with priest's house at the Lower End of Rotherhithe Street sufficed for many years for the needs of the Roman Catholic inhabitants, who were mostly attached to the large Church of the Holy Trinity in Parker's Row, Dockhead. But of late years a day School was erected in Paradise Street and to this has now been added a fine Church with Presbytery adjoining, and the small Chapel in Rotherhithe Street is used in connection with an institution for the reclamation of unfortunate women under the direction of Sisters of Charity.

Provision has also been made for the considerable Scandinavian population which has settled in Rotherhithe owing to the timber ships from the Baltic trading in large numbers here during the summer months.

The present King of Sweden when he was Prince Oscar laid the foundation stone of the Norwegian Church on a site given by the Surrey Commercial Dock Company, near Holy Trinity Church. The work was at that time carried on by Pastor Storjahan, from Bergen, and a Captains' room was shortly afterwards opened for the use of the Scandinavian seafaring men. A succession of excellent Lutheran clergymen have laboured in this Mission and a convenient parsonage house has lately been built.

In 1905 a further development was made under the patronage of the Archbishop of Upsala, and the fine library buildings vacated by the Bermondsey Borough Council have been taken on lease and adapted for the worship of the Swedish crews in the Docks. The separation of the Swedish and Norwegian monarchy into two distinct kingdoms has coincided with this division of the religious organization, which till now had been united under a single pastor.

Hidden away among "the stone alleys" leading from Rotherhithe to Deptford by the riverside is a small building bearing an inscription to the effect that it is "the Finnish Church." It stands close to the parish boundary and it may perhaps be on the Deptford side.

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The congregation cannot be large, but it deserves mention here as it is one of the religious agencies intended for the benefit of those who reside, or are for a time sojourners in Rotherhithe.

The Cottage Hospital, which was built some years since as a memorial to the late Lady Gomm, close to the Hawkstone Road Gate of Southwark Park, is a most valuable institution. It is conducted by "the Sisters of the Church," who have a dispensary for less serious cases, and visit in the homes of the people, and likewise conduct Sunday Schools and help children in preparation for Confirmation[1].

The character of our parish has in course of years shared the progressive tendency of the modern civilization of England. Yet very much remains of its old-world life, and the habits of the people partake of that ancient respectability which has been a feature of our life.

Parts of Rotherhithe are still like a country village, and the old respectful behaviour which is characteristic of rural life in England prevails in Rotherhithe to this day. "Good manners" are not at all confined to the inhabitants of the West End of London; and visitors to our humble district may well feel surprise at the politeness and civility which men, women, and children invariably show to those whose position or calling places them a little above their neighbours. Much of this native good breeding has been fostered and cultivated by the influence of the Church Schools and the teaching of the Church Catechism which inculcates self-respect and respect for others in the spirit of the old motto of Winchester School, far-reaching in its significance, "Manners makyth man."

[1] The admirable work of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses in visiting the numerous sick patients in their homes and carrying out the directions of the doctors is beyond all praise, and might well call for a longer tribute of grateful acknowledgment than we have been able to give it here.

THE END.

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APPENDIX.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

IN the Church Safes in the Vestry of the Parish Church are preserved many deeds and other documents of less value, none however without interest.

13 *Nov.* 1676.

(1) Mr Charles Gataker. Lease for a year to Mrs Beatrix Brewing of Redrith in the eight and twentyeth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord Charles the Second...

The lessor was [the Reverend] Charles Gataker of Hoggeston in the County of Bucks Clerke sonne and heire of Thomas Gataker late of Redrith in the County of Surrey, Bachelor of Divinity deceased...

The consideration was five shillings and the rent one pepper corne.

(2) Letter of Administration granted by Thomas Tenison, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1 May 1700, to one of the Churchwardens of Rotherhithe to the intestate estate of Ralph Banborow on behalf of his child Hannah.

Thomas Providentia Divina Çant. Archiepūs totius Angliæ Primas et Metropōnus Dilect. Nobis in Xpō Richardo Short uni Guardianorum Ecclīæ de Rotherhith et Curatori ltim̄e assignat. Hannæ Banborow Infanti filiæ nur̄ali et ltim̄æ Radulphi Banborow nūp de Rotherhith in Comitatu Surriæ Vidui defuncti Salutem.

* * * * *

Administratorem omniū et singulorū bonorū juriū et redituū in usum, et beneficium et durante minoritate die Infantis Ordinamus deputamus et constituimus pr prēstes. Dab. Londinii Vicesimo

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primo die mensis Maij Anno Dñi millesimo septingesimo primo et Nræ Translationis Anno septimo.

Tho. Wetham Reg^us^ Dep^tus^.
Jurat. sub xx^l^.
P. Decret.

It would appear from the fact that the earliest rector of Rotherhithe recorded in the episcopal registers of the See of Winchester was John de Toclive, A.D. 1310–1, that there could not have been any parish church here before that date. Yet the distance from Bermondsey old parish church is so considerable that there would probably have been some chapel for the celebration of the Divine service.

The Rev. Thomas Gataker gives the following description of the mediæval church when he entered on his incumbency in 1611. "As also that the main fabric of the church supported with chalkie pillars of such a bulk as filled up no small part of the room and were found verrie faultie, threatening a fail, if not a fall, unless speedilie prevented, to the ruin of the whole, which to remove and place strong timber columns in the room of them would prove a great change."

Its dimensions were 53 feet in length, 48 feet in breadth, and 24 feet in altitude. The tower was 62 feet high and contained six bells.

It is said to have been descended into by steps, and the floor to have been paved with tiles. In the year 1705, on a Saturday, the tide coming into the church so sunk the floor and the pews, that the former had to be new paved and the latter raised. The liability to floods from the river have in all times been a source of danger to buildings in our low-lying parish.

A Reprint.

An Hymn to be sung by the Charity Children belonging to Saint Mary, Rotherhithe, on Sunday, the 18th of December 1808, after a sermon in the morning, by the Rev. Samuel Burder, M.A., of Clare-Hall, Cambridge; and after a sermon

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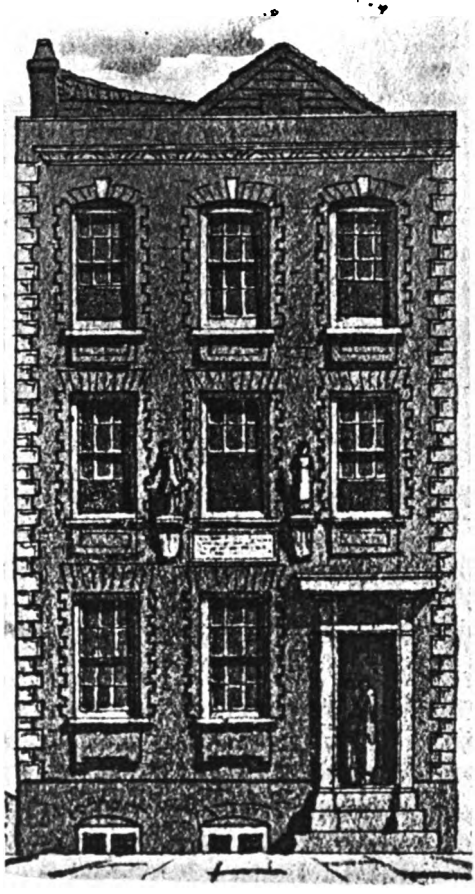

St MARY ROTHERHITHE.
FREE SCHOOL founded by PETER HILL and ROBERT BELL Esqrs. 1613
CHARITY SCHOOL instituted 1762
REMOVED here 1797
Supported by Voluntary Contributions.

Sketchd 2d July 1810.

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in the evening, by the Rev. John Butler Sanders, A.M., late Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford; Curate of St Augustin and St Faith, Watling-Street; and Lecturer of St Olave, in the Old Jewry.

Come, O come with exultation,
From your hearts your voices swell,
To the strength of our salvation,
To the Lord your transport tell.

To his goodness for their trial,
The poor destitute appeal;
For with Him is no denial,
When for aid the friendless kneel.

He will always be propitious
To the orphan in distress;
From the wicked and malicious,
He will shelter them and bless.

He shall live for everlasting,
High above all empire rais'd;
And with off'rings, prayer, and fasting,
Daily shall his name be prais'd.

Hallelujah. Amen.

N.B. The School at present consists of Forty Boys and Twenty-Five Girls, who are clothed Yearly, and taught the Principles of the Christian Religion. The Boys are also taught to Read, Write, and Cast Accounts, and when of age, will be put out Apprentices; and the Girls to Knit, Sew, Mark, Read, and Write, likewise one of the Girls is taken wholly into the School-House, and lodged, boarded, and instructed in all sorts of Household Work, (in order to render her more completely fit for Service) besides the Schooling, which she has in common with the rest of the Children. The Eight Free Boys are likewise clothed, supplied with Books, and will be put out Apprentices at the charge of the Charity.

*** Divine Service will begin in the Morning at Half-past Ten o'clock and in the Evening at Half-past Six.

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MEMORANDUM AS TO THE CHURCH PLATE.

Received y^e^ 17^th^ of Aprill 1677 of Mr Henry Oake Late Churchwarden of the p̄ish of Rotherithe, One Silver fflaggon, Two Com̄union Cupps of Silver, Three Silver Salvers, one Silver Carv'd Dish for Bread, one Pewter fflaggon, one Pewter Bason and one Pewter Salver, one Table Cloth.

I say Rece^d^ by me

WILL: HOWARD.

An Acco^t^ of the Church Plate belonging to the Com̄union Table. Take̅ Aprill y^e^ 7^th^ Anno Dom. 1695.

One Large Flaggon being the Guift of M^r^ Thomas Stone Jun^r^ Aug^t^ y^e^ 9^th^ 1666.

One Carved Dish being the Guift of M^r^ William Stevens.

One Cupp and Cover being the Guift of M^r^ Matthew Crouch, Aug^t^ y^e^ 20^th^ 1672.

One other Cupp and Cover bearing Date 1620.

One Patten being the Guift of M^r^ Aaron Woodcock.

In all Seven Pieces of Plate.

Afterwards added One Pewter Patten and One plaine Silver Plate being the Guift of M^rs^ Sarah Seaman bearing the date of the Lord 1703.

A MARBLE COMMUNION TABLE.

February 27th 1723.

We the Minister Churchwardens and Parishioners of the Parish of St. Mary Rotherhith in the County of Surry Assembled in Vestry pursuant to Notice last Sunday given in our Parish Church, Do Agree and Order that the present Church Wardens M^r^ John Dinington and M^r^ John Weales do with all expedition (with the consent of M^rs^ Baker) change a certain Marble Slab (given by M^r^ Field) for another, and Fit and make the same convenient for a Communion Table, and any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds in the Changing

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and Fitting the same shall be allow'd them in their Church Acct.

It would be a curious speculation to enquire what became of this Marble Slab for the Communion Table. No further allusion to it can be traced in the Vestry Books.

The present Rector found in 1867 a plain mahogany table with a flap serving the purpose of a Communion Table, and it is believed that it had been in the Church all through the Incumbency of his predecessor (1835–1867). When the Church Improvements were carried out in 1876, this most unsuitable Table was removed into the Vestry and replaced by a handsome Oaken Altar-Table, designed by Mr Butterfield, architect.

A Peal of Bells.

January 19th 1747–8.

The Vestry do hereby Agree and Order to have a Compleat Set or Peal of Eight Bells and for the Tenor to weigh about Sixteen Hundred Weight. And for our Churchwardens Mr Robert Saunders and Mr Thomas Pew to contract with a proper Founder to perform the same. And for the Charge (with our Old Bells) not to amount to more than Two Hundred Pounds.

And also for them to Contract with a proper Person to make a Good Substantial Bell Frame, with Wheels, Stocks, Nails, Ironwork, Nuts, Screws, and so forth all which not to exceed Seventy Pounds And for One Third of the charge of Casting the Bells to be paid at the Hanging of the Tenor, and the other Two Thirds eighteen months after that.

Church Organ.

April 24th 1764.

Many of the Parishioners having expressed their desire of haveing an Organ erected in this Church, "which they apprehend would be not only a very decent Ornament but also add to the Solemnity of Divine Service"—it

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was agreed that an Organ would make "a very usefull and agreeable addition to the Church"—the same to be erected and provided by a Voluntary Subscription. . .

December 17th 1765.

Michael Topping was appointed Organist at a Salary of Thirty Pounds a year.

[28th November, 1820. Mr R. W. Nottingham was elected Organist by a great majority of votes.]

ELECTION OF LECTURER.

March 2nd 1790.

Resolved that the Electors shall be those persons who pay to Church and Poor.

John Randall, shipbuilder, of Greenland Dock, was the son of a shipbuilder and carried on his father's extensive shipping business. He is recorded to have built vessels for the Government. In his time the shipwrights mutinied, and not only refused to work themselves but laid violent hands on those who were sent to work in their place. This worthy man entreated them to desist and to return to their duties, but in vain. And being himself struck by one of his workmen he retired from the scene and was so greatly distressed at the events he had witnessed that he threw himself out of his window and was killed by the fall. "Randall's Rents" preserved his name, though his high character and scholarly attainments as well as his business capacity have long since been forgotten.

In connection with the Waterman's craft a brief allusion should be made to their *poet*. John Taylor, the Water Poet, though not a Rotherhithe man, was frequently plying along our shore, and in several of his poems describes the scenery, e.g. the horns at Cuckold's Point at the farthest end of this parish, where it joins the county boundary at Deptford in Kent.

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ROTHERHITHE IN LITERATURE

Among literary celebrities who have resided in Rotherhithe or have drawn their inspirations from its scenes we must mention the following:—

Charles Dickens found many subjects for his novels and tales in this immediate neighbourhood. "Jacob's Island" indeed is in Bermondsey, but the opening scene in "Our Mutual Friend" describes in gruesome terms a picture which may still be seen off the shore at the lower end of Rotherhithe. A "bird of prey" is engaged in his operations as he sits in his waterman's boat with his drags out, waiting for the tide to bring down some unhappy being who has thrown himself or been thrown or has accidentally fallen into our river.

A later author, Sir Walter Besant, portrays in "The Captain's Room" the features of the lower end of Rotherhithe, where the Scandinavian colony has fixed its settlement. The story of Besant's literary visit to Rotherhithe is worth recording. The Rev. H. P. Gurney, a former curate here, was a friend of the novelist and suggested to him that he might find materials in these quaint scenes for one of his popular tales. A single afternoon was sufficient for the purpose in view. He came, he saw, he wrote his book; and as might be anticipated the local colouring was somewhat indistinct, albeit the tale itself was found extremely interesting by those who read it.

Sir Walter Scott, prince of romance writers, has immortalized a single feature of our parish in a few graphic touches in "The Fortunes of Nigel" (chapter XVII). The boat conveying the youthful Nigel and the plain-featured Mistress Martha Trapbois failed not to attract the remarks of the passing watermen in their craft, as it moved slowly down the stream:—"They were hailed successively as a grocer's wife upon a party of pleasure with her eldest apprentice, as an old woman carrying her grandson to school, and as a

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young strapping Irishman conveying an ancient maiden to Dr Rigmarole's at Redriffe, who buckles beggars for a tester and a dram of Geneva...." Such was "the boisterous raillery, then called water-wit," when James the First was King.

Lastly the famous Dr Jonathan Swift, Dean of St Patrick's, has connected the hero of "Gulliver's Travels" with this old riverside parish. Captain Lemuel Gulliver is said to have made Rotherhithe his home after his marvellous adventures in Lilliput and Brobdingnag, and the inhabitants were so impressed with the veracity of their new neighbour that when they desired to vouch for the unimpeachable character of any statement, they would say, "it was as true as if Mr Gulliver had said it!"

In the "Beggars' Opera," Act 1, Scene 1, allusion is made to Rotherhithe:

PEACHUM'S HOUSE.

Mrs P. Where was your post last night, my boy?

Filch. I plied at the Opera, Madam; and considering it was neither dark nor rainy, so that there was no great hurry in getting chairs and coaches, made a tolerable hand on't.—These seven handkerchiefs, Madam!

Mrs P. Coloured ones, I see. They are of sure sale from our warehouse at Redriff, among the seamen.

Filch. And this snuff-box.

Mrs P. Set in gold! a pretty encouragement to a young beginner!

"Our warehouse at Redriff" was perhaps the Europa Tavern, in close proximity to the back of the Opera House, which was built by subscription about 1700, and was much frequented.

Gay's Epistle (Mary Gulliver to the Captain) has this couplet, not flattering to the ladies of Rotherhithe:

"In five long years I took no second spouse,
What Redriff wife so long hath kept her vows?"

The China Hall Theatre was opened in the summer of 1777. The pieces put upon the stage included "The

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A fictitious inhabitant of old Rotherhithe.

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Wonder" and "Lying Valet," "Love in a Village," with "Comical Courtship" (a new play).

In the season of 1778 one of the performers was the celebrated George Frederick Cooke.

In the winter of 1779 the whole building was destroyed by fire.

Eikon Basilike.

The imagery of this picture is said to have been designed by the Royal Martyr himself. The King is kneeling on a crimson velvet cushion at a prie-Dieu which is draped with a crimson cloth. His eyes are uplifted in contemplation of a heavenly vision. He is robed in royal apparel of green velvet trimmed with ermine, the outer mantle is of white fur and the Collar of the Garter is round his neck. On the ground at his feet the royal crown has fallen down with the sceptre broken in halves beside it. The words "Splendidam at gravem" describe the former, while the motto "Mundi calco" expresses his renunciation of all earthly dignities. With his right hand he grasps the Crown of Thorns ("gratia" in the centre) which lies on the prie-Dieu, "Asperam at levem" and the words "Christi tracto" tell of his choice, while on an open book supported on a desk and resting on the table before him are the words "In verbo Tuo spes mea."

Two cherubs are bringing down a heavenly crown from above "Beatam et æternam," while the Martyr cries "Cœli aspecto."

A view of the interior of a Church with columns is depicted beneath the angelic vision.

On the left of the picture are two emblems: (1) the palm tree crushed down with heavy weights "Crescit sub pondere Virtus," and (2) the rock standing firm in the midst of the buffeting billows of the sea "Immota triumphans."

Public House Signs in Rotherhithe.

These are very characteristic, and some of them deserve to be recorded.

The most ancient is the "Europa" Tavern. Though a very common name of hotels on the Continent it is

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believed to be unique in England. It stands in what was once the Market Place. Thirty years since it was still adorned with a small gilded bull over the principal entrance door. But a new landlord, under whose auspices the old inn was fresh painted, not realising the connection of the bull with Europa, caused the classical animal to be removed, and it has never since graced our historic tavern.

Then, as befits a waterside parish, we have names of famous ships, *e.g.* the "Noah's Ark," the "Ship Argo," the "Old Ship York," the "Swallow-galley," not to mention the "Jolly Sailor," the "Jolly Caulkers," and the "Battle of the Nile," and many another, far too numerous for the needs of the parishioners.

An appreciation.

The following extract from a letter received by the writer in January, 1888, will be found interesting as a testimony to the value of the work of Church and School building initiated in Rotherhithe by the Rev. Edward Blick.

It is dated from Aldworth Vicarage, near Reading, and is written by Mrs Catharine Hodge, whose maiden name was Lloyd, and who was a niece of Mr Blick. She used often to stay at Rotherhithe Rectory, and well remembered her uncle's difficulties, discouragements and disappointments, and likewise his persevering faith through all.

"...It is so pleasant to see illustrations of the promise 'Cast thy bread upon the waters and thou shalt find it after many days.' One illustration of this was told me by one of the Rotherhithe workers. When Trinity schoolroom was first built, it was licensed for service, to collect a congregation, if possible, ready for the Church. A little old woman in black was one of the regular attendants. When the Church was consecrated she was there, and again a regular attendant.

"There was an organized attempt made to visit the whole parish, but owing to the large extent and the few workers, the *locale* of this poor woman was not found. Winter came on and the old woman was missed from her usual place; but no one seemed to know her, or where she lived. At last one day my informant found

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in some poor lodging an old man and woman crippled with rheumatism. 'Oh, dear!' the poor woman said, 'I did feel sure the Lord would send some one to us at last!' She told her history. She was a girl at service when her master was taken, and the clergyman was sent for. As she opened the door, he began the service, 'Peace be to this house,' in an earnest, solemn manner. This struck her very much; she heard some of the prayers by her master's bedside and attended his funeral. From that time she went to Church as frequently as she could. Then she married and could not go regularly but went as often as she was able. The children grew up, and she and her husband came to live in Lower Rotherhithe. Still she went up to Church on Sunday as long as she could; at last the walk became too much for her, and she stopped at the Wesleyan meeting-house, which stood rather lower down than St Paul's. There she went as long as she could till this was too far. She was in despair. Then one day her husband came and said to her, 'Sarah, good news for you. You will be happy. They are going to build down here schools and a Church.' She used to go and watch the building with so much interest, and at last with joy saw the school opened and service begun. The poor old woman got better, and both she and her husband were able to go to Church when summer came. But a few years afterwards both died, having however the comfort of Church ministrations in their last hours."

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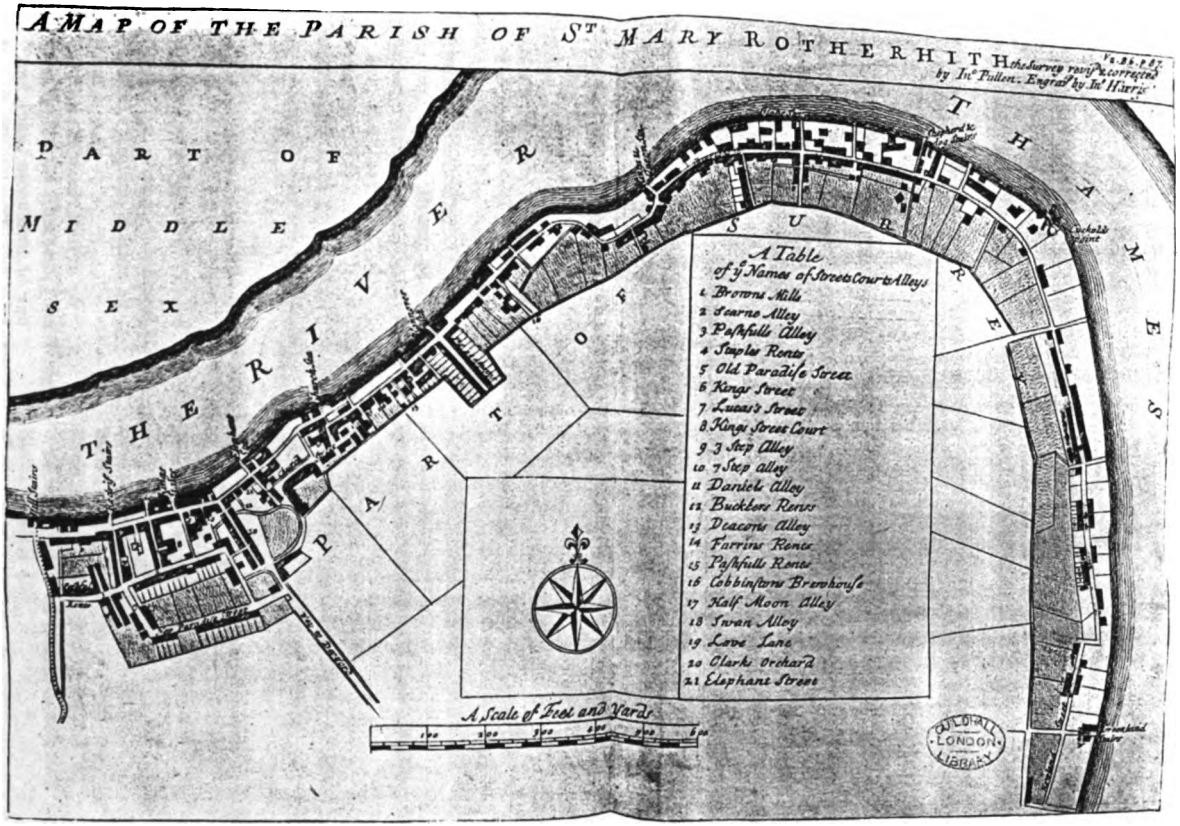

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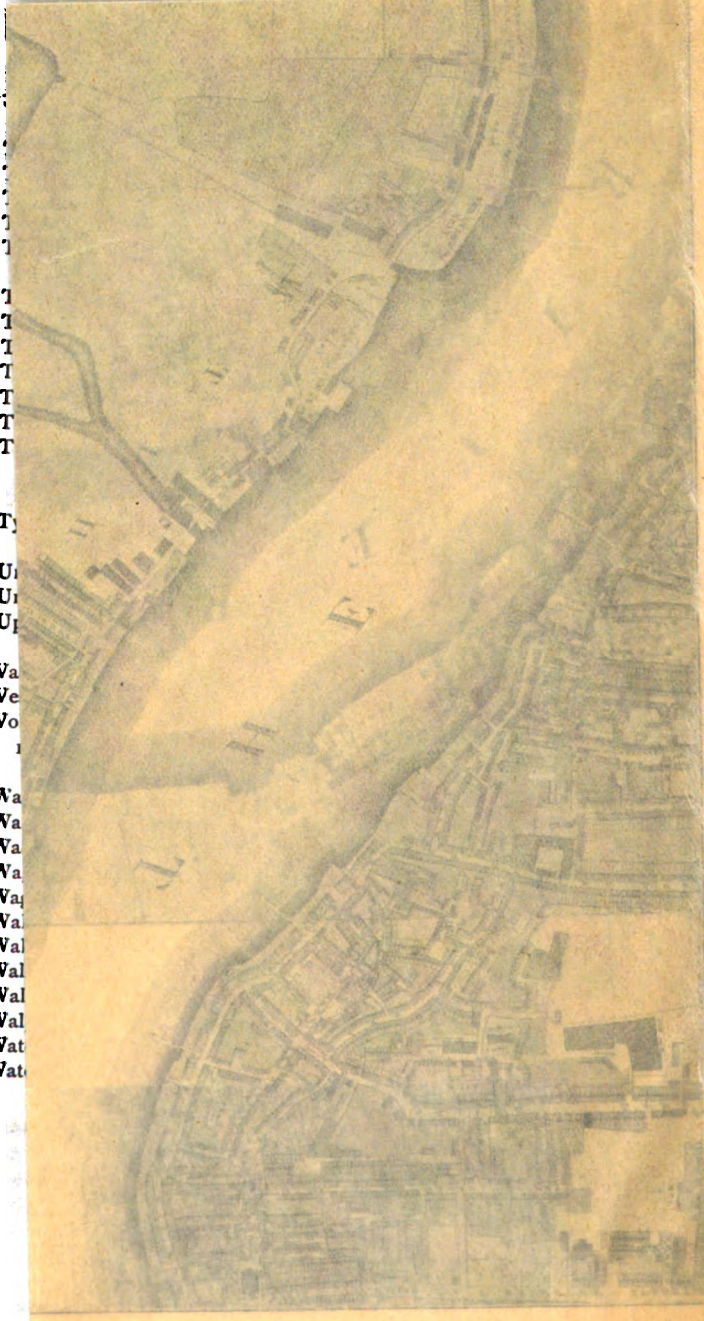

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